

Tuesday July 9 1996

Abu Dhabi D 3.50	Hong Kong H 5.25	Oman O 1.00
Albania L 2.20	India I 2.50	Pakistan P 1.00
Andorra A 1.00	Indonesia I 2.50	Poland P 1.00
Australia A 5.25	Iran I 2.50	Portugal P 1.00
Bahrain B 1.00	Israel I 2.50	Romania R 1.00
Bangladesh B 1.00	Italy I 2.50	Saudi Arabia S 1.00
Bulgaria B 1.00	Jordan J 1.00	Slovakia S 1.00
Croatia C 1.00	Korea K 1.00	Slovenia S 1.00
Cyprus C 1.00	Kuwait K 1.00	Spain S 1.00
Czech Republic C 1.00	Latvia L 1.00	Sweden S 1.00
Denmark D 1.00	Lithuania L 1.00	Switzerland S 1.00
Dubai D 1.00	Luxembourg L 1.00	Taiwan T 1.00
Egypt E 1.00	Malta M 1.00	Turkey T 1.00
Estonia E 1.00	Morocco M 1.00	Ukraine U 1.00
Finland F 1.00	Netherlands N 1.00	USA U 3.75
France F 1.00	Norway N 1.00	Zimbabwe Z 1.00
Germany G 1.00		
Greece G 1.00		

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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George Monbiot on the trail of a Brazilian torturer

## Where is Vidal da Costa?

G2 with European weather

On her father and on Imran Khan...

## Benazir

G2 pages 4/5

Education

## Have the Scots got it sussed?

G2 pages 12/13

# Return of the gun



A masked member of the Ulster Volunteer Force, the loyalist paramilitary group, pictured in Portadown in the early hours of yesterday

## How £4 taxi ride turned into a trip to the heart of an old darkness

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

**T**HE barman's voice was hoarse. "Is this it, are we going back into it all again?" he asked. Outside Doc's Bar, an RUC woman was guarding the entrance to Montague Road, where the body of Michael McGoldrick had been found early yesterday by a local man out hunting rabbits.

The forensic work was at its painstaking end and now,



Michael McGoldrick ... shot in back of head

at three o'clock, Mr McGoldrick's body was being removed from his taxi. Shot in the back of the head, found slumped over the wheel of the car he shared with another driver, his day-shift partner.

It was a £4 fare at the end of Sunday in Mid-Ulster which was dragging Northern Ireland back down into the 25-year darkness.

When the call came in to the taxi company in Lurgan town centre, the Orangemen at Drumcree were hurling stones and abuse across the barbed wire at lines of riot police.

Mr McGoldrick answered

postcard countryside, past St Michael's Grammar School, over humped-back bridges.

The news of the murder did not filter out until mid-morning. Day Two of the Siege of Drumcree Mark II, by which time the pace of events was running beyond the Orange Order's pledges of orderly protest. Palls of black smoke hung over Portadown from burning vehicles, rush-hour traffic was snaggled at improvised road blocks and two more youths were in hospital with plastic bullet injuries.

By the end of the day the main Unionist parties had pulled out of the all-party talks at Stormont in another sign that the "peace process" was expiring.

Mr McGoldrick's parents were finding it difficult to get back from their holiday on the coast, the disturbances blocking their path back to Lurgan and a dead son.

He was born and grew up in Glasgow, regularly came to Ulster. Met a local girl, gave up his job as a psychiatric nurse, married, had a daughter. The parents returned to live in their native Lurgan after a long absence. The peace was great. A family again. And another child — another grandchild — due in the autumn.

On top of all that, there was even more to celebrate. Michael graduated last Friday from Queens University, Belfast, in English and politics.

Thirty one years old and keen to start a new career as a teacher, the taxi work kept the family ticking over. It used to be a pretty dangerous line of work but the cesspools changed all that, didn't they?

Now, suddenly, his wife Sadie, aged 29, is left to bring up seven-year-old Emma and the next — their last — child alone. The family did not want to speak but issued a statement.

"The politicians must bear some responsibility for this because they have been mouthing off too much lately. Fire and brimstone speeches have featured too much in this situation. Their loose talk has cost this young fellow his life. It could have been any innocent young lad. We do not want any retaliation. They just shot an innocent fellow doing a night's work."

Lurgan has seven taxi companies, six in the Catholic end and one on the Protestant side. The public lavatories on the High Street mark the dividing line. Because of the lack of good public transport, the town relies upon its hundreds of cabs and the mostly Catholic drivers.

But the fear has come back. A depot manager, whose friend, Martin Byrnes, was shot dead in his taxi by loyalist paramilitaries six years ago, accepted that they were easy targets. "There's an awful lot of pressure on drivers because you never know how you were going to finish your shift. You're only 10p away, the cost of a phone call. Set up an ambush and call a taxi driver, so simple."

In Lurgan the dogs in the streets know how, why and by whom Michael McGoldrick has been killed. No organisation has claimed his murder but it bears all the hallmarks of a loyalist paramilitary assassination of the "any taig will do" school.

The Drumcree stand-off, page 5

## Seven stabbed in infant school machete attack

John Carvel  
Education Editor

**A** MASSIVE hunt was underway last night for a machete-wielding attacker who forced his way into a Wolverhampton infant school and slashed staff, parents and children as young as three while they were enjoying a picnic in the playground.

Up to 100 police officers were searching for a man whose assault left four adults and three children with stab

wounds and brought renewed demands for resources from the Government to implement recommendations for strengthening school security after the murder of a west London headteacher in December and the massacre at Dunblane in March.

Last night all three children — two girls aged 4 and a boy aged 3 — were undergoing surgery on what were described as "disfiguring head injuries". A woman, aged 29, was also being operated upon.

The attack came towards the end of the school day

when a man in his mid-30s struck out at a woman outside St Luke's Church of England School in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton. Many of the children were at school for the first time, enjoying a party designed to make them feel at home when they began school next term.

The attacker jumped over the fence and struck out at the children as they tried to run inside.

Bob Jones, the town's chairman of education, said a mother was injured as she stood in the doorway of the

school barring the attacker's path into the building. "We believe he was then chased away by a father of a pupil. If it had not been for those improvements in perimeter fencing, reduced numbers of entry points and installation of closed-circuit TV could improve safety in some cases."

Robin Squire, the schools minister, said the Government was doing "everything we can", but he did not think St Luke's had been identified for any of these measures.

Eamonn O'Kane, deputy general secretary of the National Association of

Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said: "If schools are to implement these recommendations — including perimeter fencing and closed-circuit television — the Government will have to provide significant amounts of money."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said it was no longer enough to be shocked and the nation's children needed action, not sympathy.

Afternoon of terror, page 2

David Hencke  
Westminster Correspondent

**T**HE Cabinet is split over who should win a £2 billion contract crucial to the country's security — the replacement for the RAF's 30-year-old fleet of Nimrod surveillance aircraft due to be announced on Thursday.

John Major cancelled a meeting last week of the Defence and Overseas Policy Cabinet Committee, which was to decide whether GEC-Boeing or the British Aerospace-Boeing consortium should win the deal.

Thousands of jobs are at stake in Conservative marginal seats depending on which is successful — with Scotland benefitting from GEC, and the north of England gaining from British Aerospace.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, are backing the GEC-Boeing deal on the grounds that it could bring more hi-tech jobs and export orders to Britain, as the Lockheed Orion aircraft is already the choice of foreign navies.

Michael Portillo, the defence secretary, is supporting the British Aerospace consortium following a recommendation from his ministry's equipment approval committee to refurbish the RAF's fleet of Nimrod jets with new wings, engines and avionics.

The BAE bid is also thought to be about £100 million cheaper, despite a last-minute cut by its rivals.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is sympathetic but not committed to the Orion, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, another member of the committee, is undecided.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to be asked to intervene to decide which bid will succeed.

The British Aerospace and Boeing bid involves replacing

Austin



the elderly Nimrod with a refurbished version incorporating Rolls-Royce engines and new avionics and mission systems, inner wing and undercarriage. But it retains the same fuselage, outer wings and tailplanes.

Export prospects for this model are thought to be slim. But it will create 10,000 jobs. 2,000 with British Aerospace, notably in Brough, East Yorkshire; and Warton, Lancashire. The spin-off will also provide extra work for BAE workers in Prestwick, Ayrshire; Filton, Bristol; Plymouth; and Farnborough, Hampshire; and jobs for Short Brothers in Belfast; and work for smaller companies in Tory marginal seats such as Gloucester, Swindon, Derby North, Harlow, Lincoln, Slough, Weymouth, and Isleworth.

The GEC-Boeing consortium plans to build a new generation of Orion reconnaissance planes with a GEC surveillance system. Rolls Royce engines, and advanced propellers from Dowty, promising 7,000 jobs.

Export opportunities are promising, with a potential big order from the US Navy, which will provide extra work for GEC.

It will benefit Scotland with £200 million of highly-skilled

Turn to page 3, column 1

**Inside**

**Britain**  
Chris Patten served notice on Tory Euro-sceptics that he will join battle with them for the party's soul when he returns to the UK.  
**3**

**World News**  
Islamic militants from Iran and other foreign countries are employing underhand techniques to stay in Bosnia in violation of Dayton.  
**7**

**Finance**  
Labour demanded the Chancellor account for the poor state of public finances after the EU warned against pre-election tax cuts.  
**11**

**Sport**  
England were 550 for 7 as the third Test against India headed for a draw. Martina Hingis, 15, shared the Wimbledon doubles title.  
**16**

**Comment and Letters 8**  
**Obituaries 10**  
**GP**  
**Quick Crossword 15**  
**Radio, TV and Weather 16**

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2 NEWS

Sketch

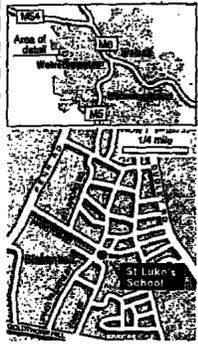
It's tough to vote for your own pay



Simon Hoggart

MPs vote tomorrow on their pay rise. At the risk of being thought a glib buffoon, I offer 10 reasons why they deserve it. First, it may seem wonderful to vote for your own salary. But it isn't. The rest of us carry for a pay rise, and if we're lucky, no-one knows about it except us and the boss. But if an MP votes for more pay, he is violently attacked by the press and vilified by many constituents. That's why even Conservative wives now buy designer ball gowns at charity shops. Second, there are very few perks. US Congresspersons have private saunas, jacuzzi, health spa, country club—even their own bank, once, and a little underground train to ferry them to their offices. Euro MPs in Strasbourg can call on a free limousine service whenever they like. Our MPs have to use the public along with rick-rack like us. Third, it's dangerous. In the past 20 years the IRA has killed two of them. Former Northern Ireland ministers have to go round with Special Branch detectives at all times, and their wives are expected to keep them in tea and cakes. Fourth, it's much harder work than you think. People who watch the Commons on television whinge about how few MPs are sitting in the Chamber. But they have better things to do than listen to their colleagues speak. A conscientious MP—and believe it or not, most of them are—could spend his entire day answering the post. Throw in standing committees, select committees, party committees, delegations ("please provide eight seats for Prime Minister's Question Time tomorrow, urgently, thank you") is a frequent sort of message) plus voting, speaking, general plotting and filling in questionnaires for the British Beer Mat Federation

designed to expose you as no friend of beer mats, so ensuring that you do not receive any votes next election from the powerful beer mat lobby, and you have an 80 hour-week without drawing breath. Fifth, it's humiliating. All estate agents know the toe-curling embarrassment of admitting their profession at parties. Imagine what it's like for MPs. Sixth, you have no real power. If you don't vote the party line on almost every occasion, the whips will try to have you out. They will certainly stop you getting promotion, and will take immense pleasure in keeping you off fact-finding visits to the Cape Verde Islands, too. Seventh, there's no professional courtesy. Lawyers look after their own, and call their rivals "learned friends" even if they detest them. But MPs are obliged to be abusive, often to people they like and admire. Eighth, there's the press. Think what it would be like if there were several people, mostly better paid than you, whose own living depended on pointing out what a lousy job you were doing. Imagine a teacher having to get through the day with a sketchwriter taking notes and chortling in the classroom, or a pundit in the playground, someone billed as "The Man The Pedagogues Dread". Ninth, you're never off duty. There are plenty of people in your constituency who see nothing wrong in ringing you at 11 on Saturday night to complain that the council hasn't been round to repair the guttering. Tenth, the public thinks that you can—and should—do anything they ask. One Labour MP tells the horrible story about a woman who came to his regular Saturday surgery and whispered to him, asking if he could have a word with her husband. It turned out that it was his pleasure to commit one form of unpleasant sexual practice upon her, followed immediately by another, somewhat less preferred. "My god, that's disgusting!" he said. "I'd certainly better talk to him." "Oh, you don't need to ask him to stop," she replied. "Just ask him to wash it in between..."



'He was icy cool. He was like a machine in the way he was so efficient'

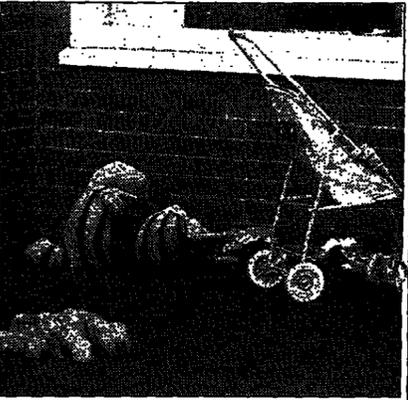


Distraught parents leaving St Luke's School, Blakenhall, after a lone man attacked children, teachers and parents with a machete PHOTOGRAPH: BEN HEAD

Teddy bears and terror

John Mullin on an afternoon's playtime at a Midlands school, and how it was suddenly transformed into a scene of bloodstained mayhem

THE huge mural to the rear of St Luke's Church of England Infants School in Blakenhall, near Wolverhampton is a happy scene of blue skies, hedgerows and fields. A fine place for a teddy bears' picnic, and the children were having a rare time in the sunshine. It was, for many, their first day at school. This was a taster, a visit to get used to the buildings and to the teachers before starting lessons after summer. Head teacher Denise Bennett likes such a big event in young lives to be a real treat, so the invitation went out to bring along their favourite cuddly toys to the party. But as they lined up in the nursery garden to go back inside, the chattering voices and laughter fell suddenly silent, as had happened at Dunblane Primary four months previously. This time they were lucky, relatively. But the little beige teddy bear lying splattered with blood on the grass was testimony to how close disaster had come. About 3.15pm, as parents filtered along the streets bordered by Victorian terraces and tower blocks, a black man aged around 35, with a beard and trilby hat, arrived, carrying a bag. One report suggested that he hit a woman barring his way into the school. Then he jumped the fence and drew from his bag a long knife. Some parents thought the knife was plastic. Others recognised it as a machete, and the assailant began slashing at the children and their mothers, a teacher, a mum helping out, a playgroup leader and another woman. They were finishing a cup of tea, and he approached from behind. There was one suggestion that the teacher, after seeing the argument, was ushering the children, all under five, inside when the assailant struck. Powerless to defend the children, still they tried. The toll was bad enough, three children and four women injured, two seriously. Nobody had ever given too much thought to security. There had never before been any violence at the school, and it dates back a century. The 130 infants, aged up to seven, come from working-class stock. Staff were proud of their pupils and their achievements. Balinder Bains, aged 28,



Children's teddy bears lie scattered after the attack

arriving to pick up his son, Amar, 6, and niece, five-year-old Kiran, alerted police on his mobile telephone as events unfolded. He saw the assailant jumped over the playground fence. He supposed the man might be a litter collector, until he saw him pull out the two-foot machete. Mr Bains, a courier, watched as he first attacked a woman. "He was icy cool. He was like a machine in the way he was so efficient. He had this cool icy look in his eyes. The teacher just fell to the ground like a lifeless doll. There was blood everywhere. He then started slashing out at the children and I rushed back into the school telling the kids and parents to get inside. One teacher grabbed hold of three children and locked herself in a storeroom. "I said: 'Come on, you bastards. Have a go.' He looked at me and moved towards me. He was smiling. He just stepped back and tried to attack somebody else. I went back to check my kids were okay and then chased him."

Diane Reynolds, 22, was waiting on her son, five-year-old Ricky. "All of a sudden I saw this black guy come from behind the church and jump over the fence. "Three Indian women were standing in front of me drinking tea. They were with their kids who had just had a teddy bears' picnic and were still outside on the grass. He went over and whacked one of the Asian women over the head with the blade. Parents ran to the school, and a teacher locked the door. There were nine mothers and 30 infants inside the room, as the knifeman went into the adjacent nursery class. Mrs Reynolds said: "We were standing on the other side of the locked door, and we heard him trying the handle. I heard children screaming on the other side of the door. "It was horrifying because there was nothing we could do. Whatever he was doing lasted for about five minutes. We suddenly saw him running toward the flats." Her husband, Darren, 23 outside with their two younger children, joined Mr Bains in giving chase as the assailant ran off towards Villiers House, one of several tower blocks in the mixed-race area. He saw blood dripping from the knife. As the teacher unlocked the classroom, Mrs Reynolds could see blood splattered across the walls and floor of the entrance area. Teachers were comforting weeping children. Julie Innes, 33, collecting Alisha, her five-year-old daughter, arrived just after the attack began. "I knew immediately that something terrible had happened. People were running around frantic. One of the nuns screamed at me: 'Don't go inside. There's a maniac in there.'" An ambulance station is only a few hundred yards away, and paramedics were at the scene within seconds. Trevor Ford was the first at the school. "It was a harrowing sight. Bloodstained children and teachers were sobbing and the scene was absolute mayhem. We treated a female teacher who suffered leg, body and face injuries, and many children were treated on the scene for shock." As the hunt for the knife man continued last night, doctors at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton were carrying out operations on the injured. It was bad enough. But Paul Dean, education manager for primary schools in Wolverhampton, summed up the ambivalence of terror and relief. "It is horrendous. But thank God no-one has died." The child victims were last night named as Ahmed Malik, 3, Francesca Quintyne, 4, and Rhana Chopra, 4. Rhana's mother, Surinder Kaur, 29, was also injured. The other adults hurt were Azar Rafiq, 29, Wendy Willington, 29, and nursery nurse Lisa Potts, 19.

First night

Coming home and staying put

Robert Dawson Scott

The Loves Of Cass McGuire Galway

TWENTY-ONE years ago there was no professional theatre in Ireland outside Dublin. Now there are two companies in Galway alone, several more in other cities, and tours travelling to the remotest communities. It was in Galway that it all started when a handful of graduates from the university drama society started something called Druid. (No West of Ireland mysticism about the name, incidentally. Someone happened to be reading Aeschylus and the Druids when they came to register a name. They never meant to keep it. Ah, well.) Druid is celebrating its coming of age with a production of Brian Friel's The Loves of Cass McGuire, one of the three plays which launched the company in the city's Jesuit Hall back in 1975. It is directed, as it was then, by Garry Hynes, and features the other founder members in their original roles, Mick Lally, and Marie Mullen as Cass. The company now plays, as of this year, in the freshly restored Town Hall theatre, rescued from disuse by the town council not expressly for the company, but certainly because of them. Now it's the mighty Abbey that comes to play in Galway. But apart from that, the things which brought Druid to the attention of the wider world, and eventually Dublin, have not changed. As Fintan O'Toole observes in a thoughtful tribute in the programme, the emphasis has always been on "the essentials of theatre—acting and directing." Perhaps it was because they didn't have anything else in the early days. The legacy could hardly be richer. If you see better acting

International Court fudges nuclear arms ruling

No ban, but Britain would have ignored any adverse verdict

David Fairhall and Richard Norton-Taylor THE use of or threat to use nuclear weapons in war would "generally" be unlawful, the International Court of Justice said yesterday. But it avoided ruling on whether such weapons should be banned in an extreme case of self-defence when a state's survival was at stake. The Hague court made the surprise ruling in response to requests from the UN General Assembly and the World Health Organisation, as it emerged that the Navy's chief legal adviser said the court would have been ignored by commanders of Britain's Trident nuclear missile force whatever its findings. "If the Court were to deliver an adverse opinion it would be ignored by the nuclear powers, and the servants of the states concerned—including SSBN [nuclear missile-carrying submarines] commanding officers—would not be acting illegally in obeying the orders and carrying out the policies of the state of which they were citizens." Captain David Humphrey, the chief naval judge advocate, advised earlier this year. In a private legal opinion seen by the Guardian, he said it was "inconceivable, given their existing policies, that the nuclear powers would be presently prepared to relinquish possession of nuclear weapons". He argued that there was no "specific rule of international law, expressed or implied, which outlaws the use, or

threat of use, of nuclear weapons per se". The court had been asked by the General Assembly for an advisory opinion on whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons is "in any circumstance permitted under international law". Its ambivalent answer, decided on the casting vote of the president after the court split 7-7, was regarded as disappointing by some anti-nuclear campaigners. They had hoped it would be a first step to getting nuclear bombs banned in the same way as chemical and biological weapons. Nevertheless, it is widely regarded in the international community as a significant development in emerging post-cold war jurisprudence. The court's non-binding opinion was decided by a casting vote from its Algerian president, Mohammed Bedjaoui. The judges finally declared: "The threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law." They added that: "The court cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a state would be at stake." The court dismissed, by 11 votes to three, the World Health Organisation's request for an opinion on whether the health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons would make them illegal. Forty-three governments made written submissions and 22 testified during eleven days of hearings. Two-thirds argued for illegality, but Britain and the other nuclear weapon powers predictably sought to reaffirm their legal status. Australia and New Zealand led the call for nuclear arsenals to be outlawed.

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Former Conservative Party chairman signals his intention to fight for soul of the party after the Hong Kong handover

# Patten takes on Eurosceptics

John Palmer in Brussels

**C**HRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong and former Conservative Party chairman, served notice on Tory Eurosceptics yesterday that he will join battle with them for the soul of the party and Britain's future role in Europe after his return to the UK next year.

In a declaration which clearly presaged his intention of returning to British politics, Mr Patten, who lost his Bath seat at the last general election, said he was ready to campaign in the party and throughout the country against any move to distance Britain from the European Union.

"The party to which I belong and of which I was chair-

man was associated with the historic, important and belated decision to join the European Union. I feel very strongly that Britain's role today and in the future should be to remain at the heart of Europe," he told a press conference in Brussels.

"I would argue, work and knock on doors with as much passion as I can muster for that vision of Britain's place in Europe," he said. "It is inconceivable to imagine circumstances in which Britain would not be part of the building of a strong, prosperous and open European Union."

Mr Patten was speaking during a three-day visit to Brussels for discussions on the future of Hong Kong with the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU governments. At his press conference yesterday he left little doubt that his thoughts



**'I would argue, work and knock on doors with as much passion as I can muster for that vision of Britain's place in Europe'**

Chris Patten on his political future

were already turning to his political future after China's takeover of Hong Kong in June next year, and to the internal party battle over Europe.

"I would be surprised myself if I did not make a noise about this issue after 1997; that is not to say, necessarily, back in the House of Commons," Mr Patten said. "I will be concerned with the issues touching on Europe, and Brit-

ain's place in Europe. It would be surprising if I was not."

Turning to the political challenges facing the European Union after the current review of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Patten said that enlargement of the union to include central Europe and the Balkans should be its overriding priority.

"I am struck by the contrast between the enthusiasm for admitting Spain, Portugal and Greece when they overthrew the shackles of fascism and the questioning about enlargement to central and eastern Europe today," he said.

In words which will be seen by Tory Eurosceptics as indicating his support for still closer European political union in the years ahead, Mr Patten went on: "There is no contradiction between an en-

larged Europe and greater sovereignty sharing in the future."

In the face of fierce opposition from the British government, most EU countries have already made it clear they want the inter-governmental conference to agree on more majority voting and greater sovereignty sharing in fields such as foreign and security policy and the fight against crime.

In addition to his formal meetings with the EU Commission and government leaders, Mr Patten will also meet members of the Christian Democrat-led European Peoples' Party, with which the Tory Party is affiliated in the European Parliament. The EPP and most Tory MEPs view the Conservative Party's increasingly strident Euroscepticism with alarm and some see an outright split in the party as next to inevitable after the British general election.

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

## Saudi splurge stuns Arizona

**A**S IF to confirm one of the hoariest stereotypes of the Arab world, the wife of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has stunned the good people of Phoenix, Arizona, with a two-year spending spree that would make Croesus blush.

In a show of the spend-thrift habits that made the Gulf oil elite a comedians' favourite in the 1970s, Al-Anud Bint Musaid Bin Jiluwi became a one-woman economic recovery by giving \$100 (about £60) tips, paying for precious jewels in cash and hiring scores of lackeys to attend to her every whim.

The royal — who is incorrectly referred to as the Queen of Saudi Arabia — arrived in Phoenix in October 1994 for a spine operation. She was meant to stay for three weeks, but instead pitched camp in the desert city for the best part of two years.

And what a camp. Details of the Saudi sojourn have just emerged, depicting a no-expenses-spared takeover of the plush Paradise Valley neighbourhood. Giving two days' notice of their mistress's arrival, staff of the Saudi embassy in Washington swept into Phoenix to refit the city's Barrow Neurological Institute to match her needs. They took over the hospital's seventh floor, moved out the other patients, repainted the rooms and fitted the floors with priceless Persian carpets.

A top-class chef was brought in, and nurses were taught the finer points of sheikh etiquette. A high-powered satellite dish was installed to keep up with events back home.

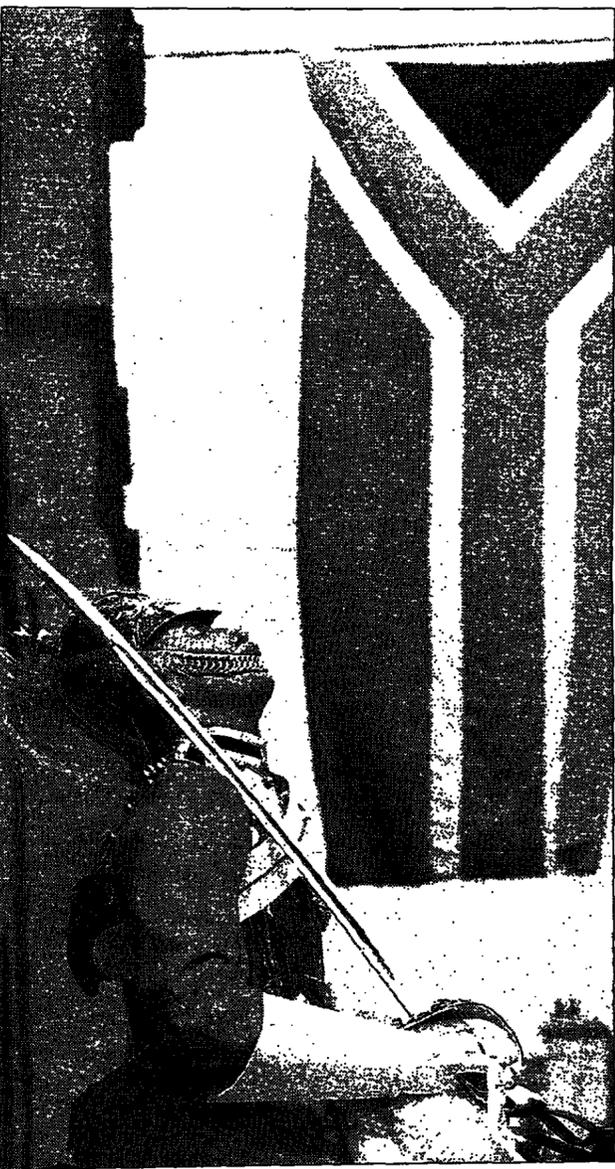
One corridor was lined with bouquets. "Walking down the hallway was like walking in a rose garden," said Volker Sonntag, the neurologist who treated the royal spouse.

As a mark of their gratitude, the Saudi party gave envelopes bulging with cash to hospital staff, including cleaners. Managers ruled that the tips were so substantial they had to be returned.

While the patient convalesced, her 300-strong entourage transformed the local economy. Jewellers were agape as Saudi women shelled out as much as \$30,000 in cash on impulse buys, while the local limousine company had 50 of its cars on permanent stand-by.

The caravan of largesse has now moved on to Los Angeles, where King Fahd's wife has promised to stay for a while before heading home. Californians are said to be hoping she's in no hurry.

## MANDELA IN LONDON: Behind the smiles, an urgent mission to alleviate South Africa's economic crisis



# Hard-headed City softens to legend of a hero

Ruaridh Nicol

**B**EYOND the royals' smiles this week, and the public's friendly waves, South Africa's economic problems will never be far away as Nelson Mandela — who begins four days of state activities in Britain today — dots his programme with business meetings to attract investment in the "rainbow nation".

Despite all he has done to bring about peaceful change, Mr Mandela will not rest on his laurels but will do everything he can to keep the City's faith that progress in South Africa continues apace.

Tomorrow he will address the CBI and the Committee on South African Trade; on Thursday he has an early morning meeting with the chairman of BP, followed by breakfast at the Bank of England; and on Friday he will spend the evening as the guest of the diamond giant, De Beers.

With 30 per cent unemployment in South Africa, and crime out of control, Mr Mandela's government has set out to create 400,000 new jobs a year and double the growth rate to 6 per cent. With the rand falling, anti-apartheid groups that used to fight for sanctions are now crying out for companies to invest.

The City, a generally cynical place, seems to soften when it comes to Mr Mandela. "He is a wonderful visionary and leader," said John Sanders of NatWest's South Africa desk. "There's a real will and desire in the City to see South Africa succeed," said Sir Robin Renwick, former British ambassador to South Africa, who now works for the investment bankers Robert Fleming.

Nice words indeed — which count for little in the real world of international finance. "In the end the City will take a hard-nosed view," Mr Sanders added.

The City lauds Mandela and the ANC for leaving their old beliefs in nationalisation behind and embracing the competitive market. But promises, it says, must lead to action, little of which it has so far seen. What it will want to hear this week is Mr Mandela's plans to reduce crime, a timescale to begin partial privatisation of the telephone industry and the nation's airports, and his commitment to building houses — one of his key election promises. Some in the City think there might be an announcement about privatisation, because of the presence of Stella Sigcau, the minister responsible for the programme.

If Ms Sigcau comes through as the CBI and the company South Africa has chosen to advise it on its privatisation plans, and 96 companies have expressed an interest so far, then the City will respond.

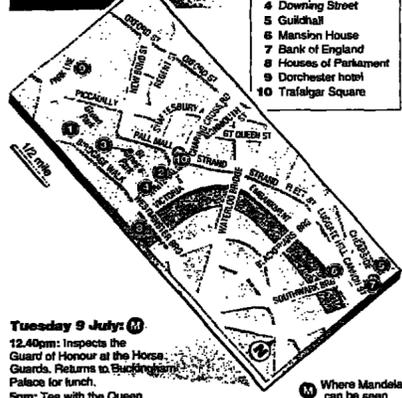
Britain is by far the largest investor in South Africa, and the City wants to see the economy there grow so investing in infrastructure projects can begin — with British companies to the fore.

While Mr Mandela brings his charm to bear on the various sections of the Establishment, he will know that in this capitalist world it will be the business community that will see his country win or lose.

Sir Robin Renwick, who was ambassador during the dying gasps of apartheid, is feeling good. "To see the new South African flag against the Union Jack along the mall does my heart a lot of good after all that country had to go through," he said.

The South African president would, though, be within his rights to ask where the businessmen who so admire him now were 10 years ago. But of course that isn't his style — not when he is trying to build the "rainbow nation".

## Mandela's tour of London



Key

- 1 Buckingham Palace
- 2 Horse Guards
- 3 Clarence House
- 4 Downing Street
- 5 Guildhall
- 6 Mansion House
- 7 Bank of England
- 8 Houses of Parliament
- 9 Dorchester hotel
- 10 Trafalgar Square

### Tuesday 9 July

12.40pm: Inspects the Guard of Honour at the Horse Guards. Returns to Buckingham Palace for lunch.  
3pm: Tea with the Queen Mother at Clarence House.  
8pm: State banquet at Buckingham Palace.

### Wednesday 10 July

7.20am: Plants tree in St James's Park. Returns to the palace for brief chat with Tony Blair.  
1pm: Lunch at Downing Street with John Major.  
4.45pm: Showed with honorary degrees by eight of the country's universities in the garden at Buckingham Palace.  
6.30pm: Receives freedom of the city at Guildhall and Mansion House.

### Thursday 11 July

8.30am: Meeting with the business world at the Bank of England.  
11am: Addresses the combined Houses of Parliament at Westminster.  
1pm: Mandela hosts lunch at the Dorchester for the Queen.

7.35pm: Attends a concert at the Albert Hall that celebrates the music of the two countries.

### Friday 12 July

10.25am: Mandela Watch: Joins the Prince of Wales in Brixton to look over the work of the Prince's Trust.  
11.40am: Mandela watch: Walks in Trafalgar Square with Prince Andrew and then appears on the balcony of South Africa House.  
7pm: Dinner with De Beers deputy chairman, Nicky Oppenheimer, at Apsley House.

### Saturday 13 July

6.50am: Mandela flies out of Heathrow on his way to Paris.

## Cabinet split as aerospace groups compete for £2bn RAF contract

continued from page 1 work for 15 companies, with GEC-Marconi Avionics gaining £100 million of work in Edinburgh, providing jobs for constituents in both Mr Rifkin's and Lord James Hamilton's marginal seats. Lord James Hamilton is a junior Scottish Office minister. Another beneficiary would be rivals British Aerospace at Prestwick, where GEC plans to sub-contract work to build parts of the fuselage and flight control assembly. Aerostructures Gambia in Hampshire will also benefit from centre and forward fuselage work.

### Nirrod versus Orion

**Nirrod** British Aerospace and Boeing

**What's at stake**

BA/Boeing collaboration is worth 10,000 jobs (2,000 for BAe). There may be export opportunities for the integrated avionics system being made in the UK and sold to other planes. Companies set to benefit include Shorts (in Belfast), Westinghouse, Westland, Lucas, Thompson.

**Engine: 4 Rolls Royce**

**Max speed: 5,700mph**

**Weight: £20m**

**Cost: £10,000**

### Orion Lockheed

**What's at stake**

Some 140 firms are involved, including GE/Whitcomb, Westinghouse, Lucas, Lockheed-Alenia. Scotland will benefit from a complete work programme.

There is a close working relationship with the US navy, which is purchasing 10 of the new Orions.

**Engine: 4 Rolls Royce**

**Max speed: 4,700mph**

**Weight: £20m**

**Cost: £20m**

**"Vidal da Costa?" I asked. "Yes. Who is it?" "George Monbiot. Can we meet?" "What for?" "I want to talk about what you were doing in 1989." "I've got nothing to say to you." "I want to talk about what you did to the peasants here. When can we meet?"**

## G2 cover story

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Bulger case haunts same area as neighbour recalls mother's screams

# Police seek three boys in hunt for killer of girl, 9

Martyn Halsall

**P**OLICE hunting the killer of nine-year-old Jade Matthews were last night seeking three boys aged nine or 10 seen near the little-used Liverpool railway line where her body was found. Jade's natural father, Alan Priest, 34, was yesterday detained by police and was still being questioned last night, but detectives said this was part of their routine inquiries. "It does not mean — and it is important to stress this — that we have got the offender in custody," said Chief Superintendent Ray Walker, head of Merseyside CID. Stark similarities to the murder of toddler James Bulger in February 1993 emerged yesterday as a team of 50 detectives extended inquiries across the same area. "We are obviously most anxious to trace these children [the three boys]", Detective Superintendent Geoff MacDonald, who is leading the murder inquiry, said yesterday, adding: "But we have no reason to believe they are implicated in any way."

Police were anxious to play down parallels with the Bulger case, in which two 10-year-old boys were sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure for his murder barely two miles from where Jade's body was found. Jade was the only daughter of Denise Matthews, 31, and her stepfather Stephen Matthews, 37. Mrs Matthews and Mr Priest have been estranged for about three years, but police said there had been no custody dispute and no animosity between them. Jade was last seen leaving her terraced home in Bootle, north Liverpool, about 4pm on Sunday to play after her tea, Mr MacDonald — who was also involved in the Bulger inquiry — said yesterday. He added: "We are led to believe she never wandered too far from her home."

Some 300 neighbours and friends began a search after Jade failed to return home by 7.30pm and her absence was reported to police about 9pm. A police dog-handler found her body behind an industrial estate about two miles from her home in the early hours of yesterday. No attempt had been made to cover the body and a number of blood-stained items, including a stick, were removed for tests. Jade, who suffered serious facial injuries, appeared to have died at the scene. Police said there was no immediate evidence of a sexual assault or that she had been abducted. A tent on the railway embankment yesterday marked the spot where Jade was found. On a nearby bridge over the line, local resident Lee Monaghan said he had come to pay his respects. "I'm gutted, it's a shocker," said the unemployed father of two. "I just feel numb... after that last one, James Bulger."

Bob Branch, headmaster of Orrell county junior school, which Jade attended, recalled "a lovely, lively little girl, very interested in sport and very popular with other pupils." He added: "We are devastated. I suppose it's every school's worst nightmare." In the playground, Lena Smith, who has two grandchildren at the school, said the whole neighbourhood grabbed torches to search the area after Jade was reported missing. "We were all splitting up and one lad fell into the canal," she said. "All the young lads on bikes were spinning round, even lads that had been in jail." She remembered the moment the police arrived at Jade's home and said she would never forget her mother's screams, which could be heard several doors away. Jade's next door neighbour, Tommy Clube, 51, said: "I took the dog for a walk last night about 7.30 and passed Jade's mum on the step. She said: 'If you see our Jade, send her in.' She was on the step shouting for her." Local resident Sue Miller, who also went to the railway bridge near where the body was found, said: "It's disgusting. She only asked her mum if she could go out... it's brought the Bulger case back to us."



Nine-year-old Jade Matthews, who went out to play on Sunday evening and whose body was found early yesterday



A tent covers the spot by a railway line in Bootle where the body of Jade Matthews was found. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER BYRNE

## Leniency call for 'suicidal' jail escapers

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor



Matthew Williams, one of the three Parkhurst escapers

**T**WO murderers who broke out of Parkhurst maximum security prison should be treated with "extreme leniency" the jury in their trial for escaping recommended to the judge yesterday. Both men — Keith Rose, 47, and Andrew Rodger, 46 — were yesterday found guilty at Woolwich crown court, south-east London, of charges of breaking prison, along with arsonist Matthew Williams, 27, who admitted taking part in the "well-planned" breakout from the Isle of Wight jail in January 1995. The escape precipitated a crisis for the Prison Service and the sacking of its director general, Derek Lewis, by Home Secretary Michael Howard when the inquiry report was published in October. The jury's plea for extreme leniency in Rodger's case when the judge passes sentence today, and for compassion in Rose's case, followed submissions that they were so depressed in prison they would have committed suicide had they not tried to escape. Williams, who has a previous conviction for escaping from custody, will be sentenced at a later date after psychiatric reports. Rose had given evidence that he was cast into "the blackest despair" after the Home Secretary formally told him his life sentence meant he would spend the rest of his life in jail. Rodger said he felt the same after his tariff was increased from 12 years to 17. Rose had been convicted of murdering the wife of a supermarket owner by shooting her six times, and Rodger had battered a night watchman to death. The jury also said they

"strongly felt" Rose should be granted a retrial of the murder conviction he had spent years trying to overturn. Rose described their breakout as "a unilateral declaration of parole" to publicise the fight to clear his name, and claimed it was timed to cause "maximum embarrassment" to Mr Howard. Both he and Rodger nodded appreciatively and smiled at the jury as the foreman made their recommendations. Judge Hubert Dunn ruled invalid their defence that they were entitled to the same protection as someone allowed in law to commit a crime to prevent a death. The court heard the escape was carried out with the help of a copied prison pass key, wire-cutters, a home-made ladder and £300 from a prison drug dealer to fund their time on the run. They made the jail shop after noticing a prison governor waving his pass key under inmates' noses when he was in "lecture mode". The plan was for Rose, a pilot, to steal a plane from Sandown airport, but they could not get the light aircraft to start and hid in a derelict house for nearly a week before their recapture.

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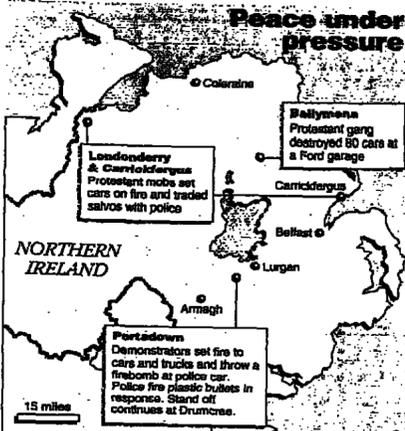
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## Orangeman vents anger at betrayal of history

Owen Bowcott hears from both sides of the sectarian divide as Portadown stand-off leads to violence putting peace talks under pressure



Standing firm... David Benson at Drumcree yesterday: 'I will stay here for as long as it takes to win' PHOTOGRAPH: KELVIN BOYES

### Loyalists

**G**ORGE Benson is buried in Drumcree churchyard. A farmer and loyal lodge member, he followed the Orange Order parade through the outlying fields into Portadown for nearly 60 years.

Yesterday, his grandson, David, stood beside his grave and looked out over a line of barbed-wire entanglements, riot shields and mounting fury.

Unhappily, he snatched a few hours sleep overnight in Drumcree parish hall. "It's our traditional route," he insisted. "It's a public highway. That area was all Protestant many years ago."

He is now secretary of the Loyal Orange Lodge, No 308, and his collar, trimmed with purple cloth and silver braiding, gives pride of place to a commemorative medal. Suspended from a blue ribbon, the Siege of Drumcree, July 9-11 1969 honours those who gathered on the same spot last year to confront the Royal Ulster Con-

stabulary and force through their march.

History, he believes, has turned against the Orange Order. "It's ridiculous. For 25 years those boys on the nationalist estates were killing the police, now they are being protected by them."

"I have walked the parade route for the last two years and my grandfather went that way all his lifetime. It's a religious occasion, not a political demonstration."

A Presbyterian by faith, David Benson, aged 30, works at a local hotel and is married with four children.

"I will stay here for as long as it takes to win. I'm supposed to be back at work on Thursday, but I'll still be here if we haven't got through. Our forefathers lost a lot more than their jobs to preserve our freedoms."

"We are celebrating a great tradition. We often get English visitors at the hotel who think it's a bit childish. If they lived over here, they would understand."

The route into town used to pass through farmland and a rose nursery. Over the de-

cad, housing estates have spread out from Portadown.

In the graveyard, where tents have been set up among the headstones, Mr Benson tends his grandfather's plot before returning to the fray. "I went home for a couple of hours this morning," he said. "I'm not sure when I'll get back again."

For those organising the protest, the mounting toll of arson and felled trees is an embarrassment. Graham Montgomery, an Orange Order spokesman, said: "Burning car showrooms makes it very difficult for us to explain that the Orange Order is making a stand on principle."

"The politicians are encouraging the loyalist ceasefire to hold."

"We want to convince the loyalists that all that can be done is being done and that there's no need to go out and murder people."

"Our plan is to try and stretch the RUC's resources. People will see this through. There's no doubt about that. The determination is definitely there."

### Catholics

**S**QUATTING on a low brick wall alongside the semi-deserted Garvaghy Road, Patrick smiled from under his baseball cap but declined to reveal his surname.

Loyalist gunmen had resumed their killings, he shrugged. It was no longer safe for Catholics in Portadown to be identified.

On the Ballyoran and Churchill estates, through which the Orange Order parade had been due to pass, the atmosphere was momentarily reminiscent of 1969.

That year, when the army was first deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland to quell the rioting, soldiers were greeted as protectors by a grateful nationalist community.

Yesterday girls chatted with squadies beside their parked Saxon armoured vehicles in a recreation area adjoining the Catholic church. The soldiers' pres-

ence was reassurance that the Orange parade would be held at bay.

"For the first time in our history the British army played with us on our Gaelic football pitch," said Patrick, aged 24.

"We offered them a game under Gaelic rules but they said they did not know them, so we beat them 6-0 at ordinary football."

Graffiti declaring "Up The East Tyrone Brigade, IRA" may still disfigure the walls of the estate but the mood had changed.

"I'm very pleased with what the police are doing here. People used to throw petrol bombs and stones at them but recently they have begun to show their thanks."

It was not true that the route of the Orange Order parade had remained unaltered for 200 years, he said.

"They used to walk a different route through the tunnel and along Obins Road but when that was stopped, around 1988, they diverted the parade along the Garvaghy."

"The objection is not that they are Orangemen and have different views to us. But they want to march down here because it's a national area."

"If we asked permission for a nationalist parade to go into the centre of the town the police would refuse us. They can't even protect young Catholics who wander up there and get attacked."

"The feeling here now is that the RUC are letting the loyalist protests get out of hand... The authorities should let the British army go in and scoop up all the loyalists protesting."

Married with three children, he fears the riots will bring the Ulster Volunteer Force gunmen back on to the streets in a fresh campaign of sectarian killings.

Across the road an older man said of the parades: "I don't mind if it is just people going to church on a Sunday, but when it's an excuse for them to show their strength and domination of the people around here then it shouldn't happen."

### News in brief

## Poor 'victims in voucher battle'

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats were ignoring the needs of thousands of children from poor families in the political battle over nursery vouchers, the Pre-school Learning Alliance, the largest pre-school organisation, said yesterday. Today the vouchers bill returns to the Commons and MPs will debate a Lords amendment which would delay a national scheme after this year's pilot in four local authorities, under which parents of four-year-olds receive an £1,100 voucher.

The alliance appealed to the Opposition not to hold up help to thousands of unemployed or lone parents. Margaret Lochrie, chief executive, said the alliance had serious reservations about vouchers but at least they would help the worst-off parents who now slipped through the local authority net.

Parents of an estimated 200,000 children needed help with playgroup fees and the alliance had launched a £1 million appeal to help them. "Pre-schools charge very modest fees — £2 or £3 a morning — but even those are beyond the means of many parents. The Opposition is choosing to ignore the needs of thousands of children." A Labour spokesman denied parents would suffer from scrapping the vouchers scheme and said the party wanted a genuine partnership with the voluntary sector. — Donald MacLeod

## Student 'died in prank'

A STUDENT died from head injuries after "surfing" out of a car window during a drunken prank, Oxford crown court heard yesterday. Thomas Pickett, aged 21, lost his grip on the car as he leaned back towards the ground.

The driver, Tatsuya Yoshimura, and a back seat passenger, Monica Bader, went to his aid after he plunged on to a cycle path on Headington Hill, Oxford, but he later died in hospital. Yoshimura, of Oxford, denies causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by driving without due care and attention while over the drink-drive limit.

Isobel Daykyns, prosecuting, said that Yoshimura, Pickett and other friends had been drinking before going to a nightclub on November 7 last year. As they were driving home towards Brookes university Pickett "leaped backwards out of the window. He put his feet, which had been on the car seat, on to the roof of the car." Yoshimura was taken to Oxford police station where a breath test showed he was more than twice over the drink-drive limit. The case continues.

## Former head denies assaults

THE former headmaster of a West Country boarding school entered dormitories late at night and indecently assaulted boys aged between nine and 12, a court heard yesterday. One boy, frightened by what had happened, telephoned the Childline counselling service from a public telephone in the school.

Robert Hay, aged 26, denies seven counts of indecent assault against six pupils. The offences are alleged to have taken place between August 1992 and June of last year. The judge at Bristol crown court has made an order under the Children and Young Persons Act preventing publication of the name and address of the school or identifying the children. Robert Duval, prosecuting, said that until he had resigned as a result of the allegations Hay had occupied a position of trust and responsibility. While on duty at night Hay would regularly visit the dormitories. The indecent assaults were witnessed by three children and the crown intended to call them as witnesses. The case continues. — Geoffrey Gibbs

## Diana considers the offer

THE Princess of Wales had talks with her solicitor yesterday to prepare a response to Prince Charles's divorce offer. Anthony Julius, of the London law firm of Mishcon de Reya, said there would be no statement yet following speculation that details of the divorce package were "not out and dried".

An official announcement of the Prince and Princess's intention to end their 15-year marriage now looks unlikely before Friday. The princess's legal team think it is unreasonable to expect her to reply to the prince's offer, which was delivered last Thursday after more than 10 weeks of deadlock, in just a few days. The offer is thought to include a cash pay-off of between £10 million and £20 million and continued use of Kensington Palace as the princess's London residence.

## Deprived areas may be hit

COUNCILS in deprived areas of England would lose millions of pounds under an "area cost adjustment" of funding recommended by a government-commissioned study. Cornwall, where the county council would have spending curbed by £20 million, North-east cities, and the commuter belt of Essex and Kent would be losers using a revised system of distributing grants and setting spending levels to reflect more closely the cost of delivering services.

Authorities along the Thames Valley, especially Newbury, Reading, Aylesbury and Wokingham, would gain if ministers accept proposals made by a team headed by Bob Elliott of Aberdeen university. Some authorities have long complained that those in London and the South-east unfairly gained from allowances for higher wage costs, and the new system will increase the arguments about how the spending cake should be divided. — James Meikle

## Man jailed for NHS swindle

THE chief of a private air ambulance company who carried out a £600,000 swindle involving a London hospital was jailed for seven years yesterday. Richard Sage, 54, hoodwinked St Thomas's hospital with grandiose claims about the size of his international firm, Belmont Air and Road Ambulance Services.

He set up a fake US arm to Belmont, and billed St Thomas's for bogus air transfers of non-existent patients around the world. He obtained £219,000 from the hospital, although some of that money was later repaid. Southwark crown court was told Sage, of Woking, Surrey, who enjoyed a lavish lifestyle, embarked on the swindle after he was released from a five-year jail term for earlier deceptions in which he posed as a doctor.

He admitted eight counts of obtaining property by deception, one count of conspiracy to defraud, one count of obtaining a pecuniary advantage, and making a false statement to procure a passport. He was also disqualified from being a company director for 12 years.

## Balti bewilders on fat risk

### Birmingham defends dish 'healthier than fish and chips'

Stuart Miller

IT COULD be the curry world's equivalent of the BSE crisis — an entire industry brought to its knees by a warning that the highly spiced and enormously popular Balti dishes could be a health risk.

But in Birmingham yesterday there was more bewilderment than panic over medical advice that the Kashmiri dishes, cooked in a Karahi wok and based on a traditional tribal recipe, were high in fat content because of the use of cholesterol inducing ghee, a clarified butter.

In the home of Balti, few comments are more likely to

### More Brum than Baltistan

BALTI curries seems to have overtaken many of the traditional Indian staples, and yet it is more a product of Birmingham than of the sub-continent, writes Stuart Miller.

There is a Baltistan in Kashmir, but it is unlikely that its residents would recognise the dishes offered in Sparkhill.

If it owes anything, it is supposed to be eaten with an over-size naan bread, using fingers.

and there is no evidence of it doing them any harm."

The owner Azhar Mahmood, said the doctors should get their facts straight. "As far as I know none of the restaurants around here use ghee any more, we all use vegetable oil. Many of my customers are Asian doctors who come in here at least twice a

week. That wouldn't happen if there was a problem."

Balti was replaced fish and chips as the most popular cuisine in many cities. In Sparkhill, Birmingham, the number of Balti houses has exploded from eight five years ago to 65 today.

Mohamed Nozki, owner of the award winning Royal Naim, said: "Balti is healthier than fish and chips or beefburgers, and a lot tastier. That's why it's so popular. Our food is of very high quality. As far as our food is concerned these warnings are rubbish."

Peter Rainbow, a car salesman aged 23, was enjoying a lunchtime chicken tikka balti and naan bread. "I eat in here two or three times a week and that's not going to change."

Sri Venugopal, president of the Overseas Doctors Association which issued the warning about Balti and other high-cholesterol foods, said: "We were talking in general terms about fatty foods. I eat Balti myself and the key is moderation."

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Finger lickin' good... a customer trucks into his Balti based on a traditional tribal recipe PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE SHARP

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News in brief

Ecuador's 'El Loco' wins presidency

A FIERY populist who rejoices in the nickname 'El Loco' and calls his opponent 'the anti-Christ' will be Ecuador's next president. Abdala Bucaram...

Russian dissident in hospital

SERGEI KOVALYOV, the human rights campaigner who became the most famous dissident in post-Soviet Russia for his stand against the war in Chechnya...

Cuban hijacker 'must return'

HAVANA has demanded that a Cuban who hijacked a plane at gunpoint on Sunday and took it to the United States naval base at Guantanamo Bay...

Bhuttos fail to make up

MURTAZA Bhutto, the estranged brother of Pakistan's prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, yesterday dismissed reports that they had reconciled...

'Ignore hype of Aids success'

INTERNATIONAL experts warned yesterday that hopes that Aids and HIV had been defeated by a new range of drugs were wildly misplaced...

Two die as storm hits Italy

THE MAIN road near Omega in northern Italy was flooded and covered with debris yesterday after storms continued to ravage the area...

Brazil admits expensive error

THE Brazilian government was under fire yesterday over revelations that an expensive advertising campaign used wrong figures to hail the success of its 'Plano Real' economic plan...

Benazir slept for weeks with his shirt beneath her pillow. It still, she remembers, had some smell of him. Jo-Ann Goodwin

G2 page 4



Demonstrators dispersed... Police fire a water cannon in New Delhi yesterday as 200 members of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party protest against a rise in petrol prices

Israeli PM anxious to reassure Clinton over hardliner's cabinet post and future of peace process

Sharon clouds Netanyahu's US visit

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

BYNAYMIN Netanyahu arrives in Washington on his first visit as Israel's prime minister today, amid American anxiety over the last-minute inclusion of the hardliner Ariel Sharon in his already shaky cabinet...

as the architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, would be read as an indicator of Mr Netanyahu's commitment to the peace process.

Jerusalem with the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, two weeks ago, where the two were said to have had a frosty encounter.

the West Bank town of Hebron, although under a different plan from that of his Labour predecessor, Shimon Peres. He intends to lift barriers on Palestinians working in Israel and back the flow of international aid to Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

day that ultimately the Americans have nothing to fear, because Mr Netanyahu is too anxious to maintain the strength of the US-Israeli relationship to risk a fight.

rael leader with whom the US can do business. For Mr Clinton, the visit is a chance to mend the damage of his endorsement of Mr Peres, and to restore faith in his greatest foreign policy achievement - the Middle East peace process.

Republicans try to oust Perry over Saudi attack

Martin Walker in Washington

CLINTON new evidence on intelligence and security failures that led to the death of 19 US troops in last month's terrorist bomb attack in Saudi Arabia...



William Perry: singled out as most likely scapegoat

example in the Orlando Sentinel which showed an Arab sheikh telling an American soldier: 'No, you don't understand. The deal is that you get to defend us. We don't have to defend you.'

Laxer laws mean that Mexican chemists can sell the so-called 'date rape' drug, writes Mary Beth Sheridan in Tijuana

WITH A practised eye, Arturo, a Tijuana taxi driver, sizes up the tourists trudging off the footbridge from the United States.

nol. The inexpensive pills were popped by heroin users to heighten a trip's effects, and by teenagers who wanted to feel drunk.

The Republicans have gathered evidence - and military and civilian witnesses - to condemn security procedures at the Khobar Towers complex, outside the Dhahran air base.

But on the basis of the flawed intelligence, the air force team did not stress the need for a wider security perimeter beyond the 80ft outside Khobar Towers. And although local commandos were tried to obtain permission from the Saudi authorities to widen the perimeter, they did not push the issue nor appeal to higher political and diplomatic authority.

Mr Perry's vulnerability is increased by the Republicans' fear that President Clinton is slipping out of the clutches of the Whitewater scandal.

So many tourists are buying drugs that the number of pharmacies has doubled

the local pharmacy association. Looser regulations enable the pharmacies to sell drugs that are unavailable elsewhere.

These actions and the US customs ban have resulted in a drop in sales of Rohypnol in Mexico by 80 to 35 per cent, said Ms Glynn.

Afghanistan's grubby waifs of war strike tragic chord

The sun shines only in the anthem sung by orphans in their bleak windowless refuge in battered Kabul, writes Gerald Bourke

GRUBBY and bare-footed, the under-fives at Kabul's only orphanage are determined to impress.

They end, "with this fist I'll smash his head." And dozens of tiny clenched hands punch the air.

because of the anthem's less than realistic assessment of Afghanistan's recent history. Since the communist government collapsed four years ago, several local warlords, each professing to be more devout a Muslim than his rivals, have destroyed large areas of the capital and killed tens of thousands of civilians.

Orphans have had since Kabul's civil war erupted with a vengeance in mid-1992. The last two homes came under heavy bombardment.

profession that can help our country now," he says. He responds to teacher's suggestion that he take up arms to avenge his father's death with embarrassed silence.

Without toys, many of the boys pass their time during the routine bombardments trying to identify the incoming artillery. "They have become past masters in the art," says Abdur Rashid, an administrator at the orphanage.

Iran

Security of sea comm

T

González for purge

Adela Cooch in Mexico City

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# Iranians form 'terror force' in Bosnia

Foreign Islamic 'holy warriors' are going to horrific lengths to remain in the Balkan state, writes **John Pomfret** in Tetovo

ISLAMIC militants from Iran and other foreign countries are using forced marriages, kidnappings and the occupation of property to remain in Bosnia in violation of the Dayton peace accord, Bosnian officials have claimed. The departure of about 2,000 foreign Islamic fighters from Bosnia was a condition of both the Dayton accord and a US-led programme that would arm and train Bosnia's army. But Bosnian officials said they thought several hundred Islamic fighters remained and US officials believe they pose a threat to US forces. The CIA director, John Deutch, visited Bosnia on Friday where a government source said a main topic of his discussions with government officials in Sarajevo was the possibility of an attack on Americans in Bosnia following the truck bombing in Saudi Arabia last month that killed 19 US airmen. Backed by members of a political party headed by the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, the Islamic fighters — who call themselves mojahedin, holy warriors — are establishing themselves in a broad swath of central Bosnia, particularly in villages around the cities of Travnik, Zenica, Zavidovici and Ekanj, Bosnian officials said. Most of the fighters, who came to Bosnia during the

war, are Iranian but there are also Palestinians, Lebanese and other Arabs, the officials said. No effort has been made to remove them, they added. Throughout Muslim-controlled central Bosnia the Islamic fighters act as a kind of paramilitary guard for Mr Izetbegovic's Muslim and increasingly nationalist Party of Democratic Action. Sources said they are particularly close to Gensudin Mehmedovic, the main Bosnian police official in the region and an influential hardliner in Mr Izetbegovic's party. Mr Mehmedovic has nurtured and protected these men as part of a plan to create a reserve force to terrorise potential political opponents, to

harass Serbs and Croats, and to pressure Muslims who might not support Mr Izetbegovic, local officials said. He has done so, they added, with the backing of Mr Izetbegovic's party, which appears to be prepared to use muscle in the national elections scheduled for September 14. On June 26, the US said that the Islamic fighters had either left Bosnia or had been removed from the government's army and security services. But officials in central Bosnia said many had simply moved over to the police. Some of the militants plan to remain permanently and now have Bosnian citizenship, which up to a hundred have obtained by marrying local women. In a few cases, the women were forced into marriage while officials looked the other way, according to human rights workers. But ordinary Bosnians appear to be fed up with the lawlessness of the Islamic militants, as a case in the small village of Tetovo illustrates. Fahrudin Masinovic is a steelworker. He and his wife, Kasema, have raised two daughters, Eldina and Alina. When war erupted in Bosnia, Mr Masinovic took up his gun and fought for four years. When the war ended, he returned to his job in the steel mill. At the local mosque, he prayed for better times. But on June 21 Eldina, aged 15, was kidnapped as she was coming home from school. It was part of a plot to marry her to an Islamic fighter. For two days foreigners, working with their Bosnian allies, drugged her and held her captive, the family and local police officials said. Eldina's sister, Alina, spotted her sister's green shoes as

the captors attempted to smuggle Eldina, cloaked head to ankle in a black chador, out of the area and her captors let her go. But they returned to the village later, beat up Mr Masinovic and his wife. Eldina, aged 15, was kidnapped. It was part of a plot to marry her to an Islamic fighter. brother and shot at his house as children played inside. Local police tried to help Mr Masinovic but it was obvious that the alleged kidnappers had a friend in the provincial police chief, Mr Mehmedovic, in nearby Zenica. Despite charges of kidnapping and attempted murder, they were released and remain free. The turmoil changed Mr Masinovic. Unlike dozens of other victims of the mojahedin, Mr Masinovic fought back, granting television interviews and talking to local reporters. Angered by what he believes to be the lawlessness of men who say they have come to help his shattered country, he demanded justice. Officials in Zenica claim the Islamic fighters fall under the control of an association known as the Islamic Centre of Zenica. Comprising prominent businessmen, politicians and other officials loyal to Mr Izetbegovic, it is registered in Zenica as a humanitarian organisation. The children of families that lost men in the war each receive the equivalent of about £23 a month from the centre. But according to Bosnian government officials, the centre may also have played a key role in funding a unit of the Bosnian army called the 7th Muslim Brigade. The brigade's training, undertaken by Iran, was modelled on that of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah in Lebanon, Bosnian security sources said. The Islamic Centre represents a faction in Mr Izetbegovic's party that backs the creation of a Muslim-led mini-state in the heart of Bosnia, a concept that runs counter to the Dayton plan. Bosnian officials said the centre is protecting the militants now because it believes the men could play an important role in any Muslim state that might emerge should the Dayton accord collapse. — Washington Post.

## Security in hands of secretive EU committees

Richard Norton-Taylor  
ONE man who has tried to bring closer co-operation between EU countries on law and order issues including policing, asylum, extradition and terrorism, are being laid by a network of secretive committees in Brussels. The committees, using such codenames as KA and P6, prepare decisions affecting the basic human rights of individuals both within and outside Europe. They enjoy the enthusiastic support of the British government. A particular attraction for Britain is that their work is strictly inter-governmental. The European Commission and the European Parliament are kept well out of the way. The committees have gained significance in the wake of the recent G7 meeting in Lyon where Western leaders announced a crusade against international terrorism. They are helping to prepare a follow-up conference of foreign and interior ministers in Paris later this month. Britain is already planning to change domestic law to make conspiracy to commit terrorist acts abroad a criminal offence. The proposal is one of several relating to terrorism being considered by the law lord Lord Lloyd. The foreign secretary, Malcolm Rifkin, said during a visit to Saudi Arabia after the Lyon summit that Britain intended to deny asylum to any one engaged in what he called "aiding and abetting terrorism". Under existing British law, the only overseas crime for which foreign nationals can be prosecuted in Britain is conspiracy to commit murder. The KA committee, named after the article in the Maastricht treaty under which it was set up, consists of officials from the interior ministries (in Britain, the Home Office) of EU member states. It meets about four times a year and reports to ministers. KA has three steering groups, covering immigration and asylum, police and customs, and judicial co-operation. Each has five or six working parties, one of which concentrates on terrorism. Their activities are extremely difficult to penetrate. His requests for information have split the EU, with Sweden, Finland, and Denmark consistently arguing for disclosure, and a majority — including France, Italy and Spain — voting against on the grounds that secrecy is needed "to protect the public interest". Britain has adopted a middle position. Mr Bunyan has had some reward for his perseverance: he has at least been told the subject matter of documents withheld by the EU. These include plans to draw up a European information system for the exchange of personal data between EU police and intelligence services, and the development of a common policy on visas and extradition, telephone-tapping, minimum guarantees for asylum-seekers, organised crime and Europe. Britain's opt-out — a refusal to recognise the role of the European Court of Justice in overseeing the activities of Europe — will deprive British citizens of the right to complain to the court. The EU committees, meanwhile, are also co-operating with the United States and other non-European countries in the context of what is called P6 — political co-operation between the G7 countries and Russia. There are moves to expand Europe's role in the P6 network to include what French officials last year described as "those who made propaganda calling for violence". British officials at a P6 ministerial meeting in Ottawa last December expressed concern "not just about those engaged in terrorist activities but about other political activists who promoted unconstitutional change or destroyed the good relations enjoyed by the UK with other governments". Co-operation on all these issues will be taken forward at the meeting in Paris.



Victims of slaughter... Bosnian Muslim families try to identify the bodies of nine Muslims in Svrake, near Sarajevo, yesterday. The bodies were dug out by war crimes investigators who say they were executed by Serb forces in December 1992. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER ANDREWS

## Call to get tough with Serb war criminals

Richard Norton-Taylor  
INTERNATIONAL pressure was growing last night for tougher action against Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb leaders indicted for war crimes, including genocide. Robert Frowick, the US head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission in Bosnia, said the Serb Democratic Union should be barred from the September 14 elections if Mr Karadzic retained any office. The Dayton peace agreement banned indicted war criminals from holding official positions. Mr Karadzic last week handed over power to the Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Plavsic, and said he would not be a candidate in the elections. But he remains chairman of his political party. Officials of the Contact Group on Bosnia — the US, France, Britain, Russia and Italy — will meet in London tomorrow to consider what to do. Options range from a military operation to seize the two Bosnian Serb leaders to economic sanctions against the Republika Srpska. Although British officials insisted yesterday that they wanted to maintain pressure on Mr Karadzic and General Mladic and have them arraigned at the war crimes tribunal at The Hague, they made it clear that Britain preferred a wait-and-see approach. The British view, which does not appear to be shared by the United States, is that the Bosnian Serbs can be persuaded to hand over indicted war criminals to The Hague by the threat of what they call "graduated economic sanctions" against the Serbs on the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic.

## González fails to quell calls for purge of party leadership

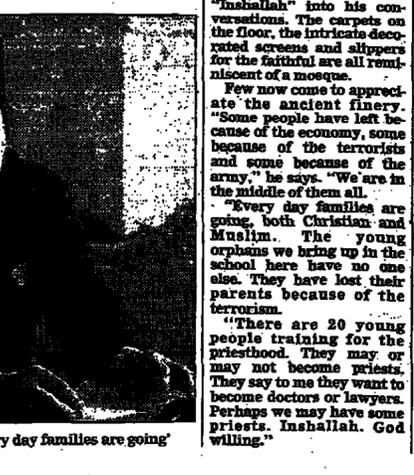
Adela Gooch in Madrid  
FELIPE González, the former Spanish prime minister, faces a challenge to his leadership of the Socialist Party prompted by fresh corruption revelations and calls for a new generation to clean up the party's image. Mr González managed to restore his authority at a meeting of the party's executive yesterday, but his main opposition lies outside, among powerful regional barons who otherwise see little chance of ousting the new conservative government. Last week the president of Extremadura, Juan Carlos Rodríguez Ibarra, called for the leadership succession to be discussed openly at the Socialist congress next spring. His intervention was prompted by recent disclosures of funding scams involving Socialist officials in Andalusia and Navarra. Further scandals dating from the Socialist's 134 years in power are ripe for revelation. Supporters of Mr González, who remains the most highly rated politician in Spain, have

## Exodus from terror spells old age and death for forgotten religion

A community in exile from Turkey's war with Kurds is starving one faith of its lifeblood, reports **Owen Bowcott** in Mardin

IT IS mid-morning and Bishop Ibrahim Turker is brooding in the crossfire, paperback. Only a fig tree in the monastery courtyard stirs in the light breeze. Isolated by centuries of schismatic theology and a liturgical script close to the Arabic one, spoken by Christ, the dwindling Syrian Orthodox community in Turkey imposes few demands on its clerics these days. It has not, however, been an easy history. Persecuted as heretics by Byzantines and Crusaders, massacred by the Mongols and scattered by Kemal Ataturk's armies in the 1920s, the religion is now in danger of disappearing from its historical heartland. The latest threat, which has driven families into exile and robbed children of their parents, is the bitter 12-year war between the separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) and the Turkish authorities. Police roadblocks control access to the nearby town of Mardin, 30 miles north of Syria. In the surrounding mountains, scores of villages have been burnt to the ground. The army blames "PKK terrorists" for the destruction, while Kurdish politicians and human rights groups say it is the result of the govern-

ment's policy of depriving the separatists of support. Caught in the crossfire, the few remaining Syrian Orthodox monasteries and churches have gradually emptied as fewer young people have chosen to enter the priesthood. "Ten years ago the community in Mardin was strong," says Bishop Turker, stretching his sandal feet. A silver, filigreed cross hangs at his neck. "Now there are only 400 families left. Fifty years ago the people fled to Lebanon and Syria. Now the remainder are going to America or Europe." The monastery of Deyrulkazan — several miles outside Mardin and so called because of its saffron-coloured stone — was the seat of the Syrian Orthodox Patriarch until the 1920s. Its large wooden, metal-studded gates are closed at



Bishop Ibrahim Turker: 'Every day families are going'

## Turkish MPs in vote punch-up

Chris Murrill in Ankara  
MODERN Turkey's first government led by an Islamist prime minister was approved by parliament yesterday in a high-tension vote of confidence marred by gun-carrying and fighting among MPs. Uproar erupted as members of secular parties attacked colleagues who had voted against the alliance with the Islamist Welfare party of Necmettin Erbakan. The former foreign minister, Emre Gonensay, was punched by a colleague in his True Path party, and another deputy was hit to the ground. Voting resumed after a seven-minute delay and Mr Erbakan's government went on to win by 278 votes to 265. A group of MPs from the far-right Grand Unity party, whose seven seats swung the vote in favour of the new government, then attacked a member of the opposition Motherland party, who drew out a gun to defend himself. Security guards and other MPs piled in to disarm the gunman as mayhem ensued. Ten other True Path deputies voted against the government; the party's only Jewish member abstained, and four MPs stayed away in protest. The True Path leader, Ramazan Ciller, who is foreign minister and deputy prime minister, said the vote was about choosing a continuing stalemate or an end to a nine-month political crisis. "We have chosen a social consensus," she said and

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Growth: the elusive goal

The Chancellor mustn't blow it for electoral gain

TODAY'S summer economic forecasts from the Treasury will set the parameters for what may be the last Conservative budget for many years to come. History will be very unforgiving if the Chancellor misuses the underlying message of the forecasts in an effort to win an election rather than set the UK economy on a steady long-term growth track.

The overwhelming priority is to rebalance this consumer-led recovery by encouraging exports and investment (without which future growth is impossible). British industry, bless it, only seems to invest after a prolonged recovery when it is running out of capacity. Most economists believe that the economy could expand at 3 per cent a year (instead of under 2.5 per cent) for several years without rekindling inflation.

The economy is certainly in a mess financially. Today's figures will reveal that the 1996/1997 public sector borrowing requirement — the gap between Government income and spending — will be some £5 billion worse than the £22.5 billion forecast as recently as last November. That means one thing. There is no justification for cutting taxes in November even if they are "balanced" by spending cuts elsewhere.

Fortunately, Kenneth Clarke is well aware of all this. He genuinely wants to restore his party's lost reputation for economic management (and his own place in the history books) by steering a sound fiscal course. But Tory backbenchers, buying for tax-cutting electoral bribes, see otherwise. They would far prefer to adopt a scorched earth policy either to win the Tories the election or leave Labour to clear up the mess.

The new sport of guru shooting

But sadly for Mr Willetts he has chosen the wrong target

DAVID Willetts — allegedly known as "two brains" to his admirers — is one of the most interesting Conservative MPs and his Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet, Blair's Gurus, has attracted extensive comment, which it naturally sought and to some extent deserves. Like many others, Mr Willetts is intrigued (though not out of idle curiosity) to pinpoint where Tony Blair gets his ideas from.

Mr Blair is part of that too, and he draws on what others have written, but these eight are not the handbooks of Blairism. Most of the authors think Mr Blair is too cautious, while he in turn thinks they are too reckless. Topple the gurus if you can, but it does not follow that you thereby topple Mr Blair.

The other chief difficulty with Mr Willetts's pamphlet is that he believes that the eight writers share a disdain for British models of political economy. They are seeking to make Britain into something else, he alleges, in this case a variation on post-war German social market capitalism. This is a familiar type of charge from Conservatives since at least the time of the French Revolution, as well as being one which will endear Mr Willetts to his xenophobic party.

There are, however, two principal problems with what Mr Willetts has produced. The first is that he makes the mistake of thinking that if he can demolish eight books by those whom he terms Blair's Gurus, he can therefore demolish Mr Blair as well. In fact, the eight books with which he takes issue are widely different from one another. If they are part of a coherent movement of ideas, it is not because they agree with one another but because they are all in some way dealing with the same historical problem — the failure of Thatcherite possessive individualism to solve satisfactorily the problems which confronted Britain 20 years ago.

A proliferation of professors

Oxford has raised the status of its academics pennilessly

HISTORY has not turned full circle... yet. In the middle ages the three academic titles — master, doctor, professor — were synonymous. Oxford has not gone that far back but for 261 of the University's academic staff, yesterday dawned a glad confident morning: 162 became professors and 99 readers in one go. Overnight the number of professors jumped from 199 to 361 and the number of readers from 107 to 206. Journalists are well qualified to comment on such developments for as readers may have observed, the number of editors on newspapers has similarly multiplied. Part of the motive appears to be the same: a management strapped for cash but ready to buy some relief by conferring higher status for the same pay. The new professors will receive no more money and their duties remain the same. But Oxford insists each of the 261 promotions had to pass through a rigorous selection procedure. It seeks to

end the anomaly under which celebrated Oxford lecturers — with a string of distinguished research studies behind them — have to play second fiddle to less eminent academics holding professorial titles at other institutions. It hopes to ensure its academics get better conference bedrooms — and better research grants too.

The move is one more step towards the American model where all academic staff seem to be either assistant, associate or full professors. Two years ago the Association of University Teachers floated a similar idea in the wake of a wave of new professors when the polytechnics were rebelled universities. Snobbery was the major motive even though the polys were using managerial position rather than scholarship as their main test. A secure profession would not need such status labels. Like "reporter", "lecturer" should be a proud enough title.



Letters to the Editor

Buddhists in conflict

MADELINE Bunting's account of the Dorje Shugden controversy (Shadow boxing on the path to Nirvana, July 6) was both timely and balanced. The Dalai Lama is coming to the UK to give teachings and to draw attention to the plight of his fellow countrymen, whose way of life is threatened with extinction by the Chinese policy of ethnic swamping.

First, the "evil spirit Shugden", far from being a Buddha, was apparently the object of a cult in the East Tibetan province of Kham in the 1940s. In his memoirs, the late Tsipon Shugpa describes how, as a district governor in Kham in 1940, he was called upon to deal with renegade monks from Sagang Gumpa who, "claiming they were possessed by the local spirit Shugden... had badly disturbed the local farmers, threatening them and stealing their possessions".

The Dorje Shugden controversy is a side issue to the main problem confronting Tibet, which is the survival of Tibet's way of life in the face of a deliberate policy by China of swamping Tibet with Han immigrants. Such a policy is contrary to international law and is intended to extinguish Tibet's separate identity.

The Shugden Supporters Community has a very un-Buddhist interest in wealth, power and expansion of the sect, combined with a slavish dependence on a cult figure. These attitudes are alien to Buddhism and to Tibetans but reflect a society where a religious vacuum all too readily yields to an aggressive desire on the part of recent western "converts" for conquest and power.

The integrity of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has survived contact with and scrutiny by the West for more than 30 years, unlike many eastern guru/cult leaders. The NKT's smear campaign will doubtless fizzle out and the cult go the way of all cults, hopefully without a Waco-style finale.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet supports the right of the Tibetan people to determine their own future, whether as a separate nation or in some form of confederation with China. This is for the people of Tibet to decide. We support the Dalai Lama as the acknowledged leader of the Tibetan people in his search for a peaceful resolution to his country's long-running conflict with China.

In 1994 the Chinese decided upon a policy of pacifying Tibetan resistance by deliberately seeking to blacken the moral character of the Dalai Lama and to divide the refugee Tibetan community. Wittingly or not, the Shugden Supporters Community is doing exactly what the Chinese have so far failed to achieve. We should not allow his allegations to influence our support for the Tibetan cause.

READ with dismay Madeline Bunting's prejudiced and biased article. I am a Tibetan living in London, a member of the Shugden Supporters Community but not of the NKT. I have proof from my friends in India of an extensive campaign of intolerable religious persecution being conducted by the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile which blatantly contravenes our Tibetan constitution.

DEPLORE the presumption of the Anglican Church that it is entitled to act as the sole custodian of morality and spirituality (Moral crusade by Carey, July 6). The implication that someone who has rejected Christian dogma is doomed to an amoral existence, or may be of diminished spiritual health, is one that I find abhorrent.

WIT regard to the "Battle of the Buddhas", a couple of relevant historical details have been overlooked.

THE Dorje Shugden controversy is a side issue to the main problem confronting Tibet, which is the survival of Tibet's way of life in the face of a deliberate policy by China of swamping Tibet with Han immigrants. Such a policy is contrary to international law and is intended to extinguish Tibet's separate identity.

Hard to swallow

YOU reported (Breakfast at Claridge's? Heathrow is better, July 1) on my and my airport inspection team's findings that the food has improved remarkably at most — though not all — of the 130 catering outlets of BAA's seven airports. The article implied that I had thought me biased because BAA had engaged me four and a half years ago to raise the standard of airport food. I resent and reject this. My condition was, from the start, that I have absolute freedom to be as outspoken as I wish hence the improvements.



An odd pair for the Square

TO MARK the visit of Nelson Mandela to these streets, a statue of the great man should be commissioned to occupy the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square. He has shown himself to be a statesman of vision and integrity, a man of principle and humility. Without a hint of bitterness, he has forgiven the oppressors of his people, enabling his country to face the future in a spirit of hope.

THE armed police who raided the Stoke Newington rehearsal room where Kurdish actors were rehearsing my play Mountain Language (Front-page report, June 21) manhandled them, handcuffed them and forbade them to speak in their own language. The Kurds, most of them refugees, thought the police were so forceful and deaf to reason that they felt they were back in Turkey.

THE production of the play itself was extremely moving, and particularly significant in that a number of the participants had themselves been imprisoned and tortured in Turkish prisons. The appalling repression of the Kurdish people in Turkey is generally unreported in the British media and virtually ignored at government level. Vast numbers of Kurdish vil-

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

WIT reference to your piece about the vacant plinth in the north-west corner of Trafalgar Square (Statues to vie for plinth, Guardian, July 4). How about a statue of Baywatch actress Pamela Anderson? It would give visitors to Trafalgar Square ample shelter when it rains.

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Clearing the clouds over the the Oxford skyline

GEORGE Monbiot (All gain makes Britain a dull place to live in, July 2) gives an unjustified view about how Oxford City Council has dealt with a planning application for a city-centre leisure development. He quotes a confidential report, containing a reference to a decision by my committee that has not in fact yet been taken, as evidence of a conspiracy to approve the application. The reference was completely unknown to me: it clearly stemmed from a cock-up rather than a conspiracy.

public meetings, several committees and full council, and has been referred to the Royal Fine Arts Commission. The proposed development has no effect on the skyline. Monbiot's suggestion that the development will exacerbate Oxford's transport problem is also wide of the mark. A leisure development on this site is for the public good. The proposal was confirmed in the Oxford Local Plan after a public inquiry as being in the public interest as it provides much-needed leisure facilities. For Monbiot to suggest that the council's support for the principle of the development is based upon considerations of planning gain is shameful. These proposals were recommended in a written report on the open agenda. They were not revealed "by

accident" nor "decided out of the public eye". Planning gains could potentially distort the planning process, although I understand there is little evidence of it so far, and it is certainly not something Oxford City Council can be accused of. However, this is essentially a problem of the Government's making. If there were proper funding of the public sector, then highway authorities could return to building roads or subsidising buses, and housing authorities could provide social housing, and the planning process could be more detached from the financial aspects of development.

The suggestion that the council is "eager" to approve the leisure development is a joke. The planning application was received in December 1994 and has been through two

Stef Spencer, Chair, Planning Committee, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford.

Moral reflections on the rules of the archbishop's crusade

YOUR leader (Filling a moral vacuum, July 6) seems to acquiesce in George Carey's opinion that people should not select for themselves what is right and wrong. Our society is in fact founded upon people constantly making such decisions. Most of us choose every day not to murder, rape and steal as a matter of choice, not because we fear divine or earthly retribution. The vast majority of crimes is committed by people who know that what they are doing is wrong, but are driven to it by anger, need, or some other consideration which overrides a simple version of morality.

CONCERN for other people is a natural human characteristic. Richard Dawkins' arguments for his theory of the selfish gene show this is inevitable: if we did not have such a characteristic, we and our genes would never have survived. Unfortunately, the older we get the more ready we are to accept conformity as our guide rather than our own natural morality.

As regards education, my five-year-old son has a much stronger sense of what is right and wrong than I do. Children deserve far more credit for working morality out for themselves. Ben Leslie, 15 Elsinore Road, London SE23 2SL.

Only too often our rule-governed society is not concerned about people, but only about its own preservation. Moral concepts like loyalty can easily have catastrophically immoral consequences: no individual could possibly do the harm a nation may do by declaring war. What we need is not moral rules, but a proper respect for our own natural moral instincts. David Griddle, Liberton Education, 170 Wells Road, Bristol BS4 2AG.

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RULES make the game possible — for the corporate players as well as individuals. The Government should consult him about the next phase of its "deregulation initiative". Rules are the foundation of fair competition, differentiating a real market economy from avuncular anarchy. J T Winkler, 28 St Paul Street, London N1 7AB.

A Pinter drama in Stoke Newington

THE armed police who raided the Stoke Newington rehearsal room where Kurdish actors were rehearsing my play Mountain Language (Front-page report, June 21) manhandled them, handcuffed them and forbade them to speak in their own language. The Kurds, most of them refugees, thought the police were so forceful and deaf to reason that they felt they were back in Turkey.

THE production of the play itself was extremely moving, and particularly significant in that a number of the participants had themselves been imprisoned and tortured in Turkish prisons. The appalling repression of the Kurdish people in Turkey is generally unreported in the British media and virtually ignored at government level. Vast numbers of Kurdish vil-

A Country Diary

CHEESHIRE: As the river bends to enter the narrow sandstone gorge and the National Trust woodlands, it is joined by a smaller stream which has meandered through a much broader part of the valley. For about a mile the stream runs along the bottom of gently sloping pastureland, winding around several fine examples of "ox-bow" bends on its way. This is a quiet and peaceful corner of the valley, an area of grassland lightly grazed by a small group of retired and friendly horses and rich in flowers and grasses. The lower slopes are the most diverse, with tracts of Crested Dog-tail, Common Bent, Yorkshire Fog and Red rescue grasses, amongst which shine the colours of Bugle, Knapsweed, Birds-foot Trefoll and Ox-eye Daisy. I sat down on a small embankment at the edge of one of the Ox-bows, surrounded by Common Spotted Orchids in full bloom and a mass of colour — predominantly pale lilac but here and there were reds, rose-pinks and whites. There was

considerable variation in the extent to which the leaves were spotted: in some plants the basic green colour was almost covered by large dark blotches, whereas in others the spotting appeared to be almost absent. The stream below the embankment moved slowly through thick, waving blankets of Water Crowfoot covered with small white flowers, and together with the flattened leaves of Water Plantain these provided an ideal platform for insects, the most obvious of which was a white fly. There were the Banded Demoiselles. These are one of Britain's biggest damselflies, and I watched several males continually performing looping flights out over the water and back to the floating platform with their transparent wings almost invisible except for those dark blue bands. Occasionally a female with metallic green wings would flutter into the air from her perch on some nearby vegetation, attracted by the patterned wings of the males. J M THOMPSON

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

July 11 1996

Diary  
Matthew Norman

EVEN as the Lord smote the enemies of the children of Israel, so it is my solemn duty today to quash a poisonous ecclesiastical rumour concerning my old friend George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury. When Robert Sumner retired in 1990, so this foolishness has it, the entire Church of England wanted one man to succeed him. All agreed that John Habgood, Archbishop of York, was the most far superior to any rival; had the respect of the whole Church; and was a fine leader. There were, however, two problems: he was too leftwing for Margaret Thatcher's taste, and he was an old Etonian. Spotting the danger, the bishops gathered to contrive a Trollopian manoeuvre. They decided to put forward two names: one, Habgood, and the other, the most glibly pliant, vacuous, waffly, tambourine-wielding mediocrity they could come up with. Thus, so this wickedness suggests, was George Carey selected. It's true George's promotion remains a mystery to many; but I will not countenance such thoughts. How much more Christian to observe that God, like Thatcher, moves in mysterious ways. His wonders to perform?

CONTROVERSY surrounds the luxury jaunt to Malta made by the central Lady Olga Maitland and several other MPs, including Gerald Kaufman. I wish to differentiate that junket — paid for by Air Malta — from the £5,000, Barclays-sponsored trip to the Far East made by Mandy Mandelson at Easter, to be precise, like her former colleagues Hartlepool and the Ount. There is no sturdiness between the two, so let's hear no more about it.

A COUPLE of Sundays ago, meanwhile, I went to LWT's The Agenda to announce his lack of personal ambition and total indifference to what is written about him. This week it was Frank Dobson who appeared for Labour, telling Andrew Rawnsley about party funding. Rawnsley explained that Conservative Central Office refused to put anyone on the show, while the only Tory backbencher who would discuss appearing had ruled himself out by demanding "a big fat fee". Who could he be, this greedy fellow? I told Adam and Eve it's my old friend Peter Bottomley, the excitable MP for Ebbw Vale. Asked to specify the meaning of "big fat fee", Bolmondely mentioned that he gets £600 a time for newspaper articles, a figure the programme-makers felt a little steep for six minutes in the studio. I find this extremely hard to forgive, as Bolmondely and his wife Virginia struggle along on a combined income (excluding office and mileage allowances and sundry expenses) of barely more than £110,000. "Well, how much do you earn?" demands Bolmondely, before replacing the receiver without so much as a farewell.

THERE is another couple for whom the hike in political salaries cannot come too soon. In the Daily Express Sandra Howard, the Home Secretary's oft-married wife, reveals that she attended A&E last year in an outfit that in total cost her a fiver. "You have to be cost conscious," she says. This is distressing. Michael is too proud to ask pipell for help, so I will be contacting his mother Hilma — an old friend whom I saw recently at a 90th-birthday party (we talked about his colds) — to plead on his behalf. I shall explain that the price of Len-Sip has risen scandalously in recent years.

NEW dietary problems faces orthodox Jews in London. Time Out magazine reports that Thames Water has received 57 complaints about shrimps appearing in drinking water. The company says this is a common problem, but this is scant consolation for those who keep strictly Kosher homes, for whom the swallowing of any crustacean is strictly forbidden. As yet there is no surefire way to combat the danger. The Torah is mute on the point, as is the Talmud. So, thus far at least, is the Diary, but we will try to find a ruling by tomorrow.



# Shameful failure to support the cause

## Commentary Hugo Young

NELSON Mandela is a hero of the British people, and the compliment is returned. The second part of this takes some explaining. On the eve of the state visit, he spoke of British democracy as his lodestar and of the BBC World Service as a jail house lifeline. Magnanimity is the quality that most distinguishes him from other statesmen. Along with iron courage, it's what gives him a unique place in hearts and minds across the world. But Britain surely exacts a unique demand on his supply of it.

Street and interviewed her for the Guardian about South Africa. In the face of impressive competition, this encounter ranks among the most ferociously emotional performances she ever gave. Mainly she wanted to establish that sanctions against South Africa, then the policy of almost the entire civilised world, were immoral, and that the forthcoming Commonwealth conference would once again be dominated by her unyielding opposition to them. This policy had his hero and its demon. The hero, in Mrs Thatcher's eyes, was Chief Getha Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, her source-book for the native case against sanctions. The demon was Mandela, whose opinion, she said, "I totally reject".

ment against them. The crime was to be wrong about the outcome. Sanctions eventually worked with laser-like effect on the confidence of white South Africans and their bankers. And Mandela won. Such railing against the tide of history became the mark of Mrs Thatcher's foreign policy. It was partly due to a category mistake. Whereas domestic policy can be made to bend to any prime minister in command of a substantial parliamentary majority, foreign policy is bound by different rules. It cannot, without collaboration, become a self-fulfilling prophecy. For a second-rank power, will and outrage are never enough. Mrs Thatcher personalised the targets of these futile feelings in a way that did persistent damage to her country. In retrospect, it is in the diplomatic field that the failure of her Cabinet colleagues to restrain her headstrong, half-baked moralising will be seen as most culpable. From a national point of view, Mandela is not the only rejected partner, regrettably, to have had the last, sick laugh. For South Africa in one hemisphere, read Germany in the other. It is not quite clear from the texts and memories whether Mrs Thatcher thought she could single-handedly prevent the reunification of Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall. What is obvious is that her entire conduct at the time was directed towards that outcome. The expansion of Germany, she thought, should be postponed if not prevented.

dictation by simply writing it out of history, depicting it as the evil construct of her enemies. Such is the realism Mrs Thatcher brings to one of her largest foreign-policy decisions. There were global judgments she got right. In particular, she was right about the cold war, and about backing Gorbachev as an architect of its end. She was also right about the Gulf war. These, of course, mattered greatly. She had her own clarity, sometimes making a helpful cut through professional indecision. But Nelson Mandela's return recalls one of the bad things she did to Britain's name. At this, note well, is more than history. The Tory right still circles approvingly around Buthelezi. He was here just before the recent Natal elections, in which he didn't do very well, coming in support from anti-Mandela elements in influential quarters. Jimmy Goldsmith in the wings. Lusting after great capitalist politicians is a habit the right has had since the dawn of time. It is a habit that does not improve with age. Remember the last messiah, Silvio Berlusconi? Britain was uniquely well placed to assist the apostrophe of Nelson Mandela. British investment and British trade gave London the lever that could have helped open his prison door. It was his, and our, misfortune that the moment of truth came in a collision. The British leader who did not want to take it. She preferred to pass by on the other side. Evidently he holds no grudge against this country. Perhaps he takes comfort from the disparity of results. On the one hand, a former leader fading into dyspeptic insignificance, unloved by any but the coterie; on the other, a hero of the world.

## The hero, in Mrs Thatcher's eyes, was Chief Buthelezi. The demon was Mandela

can be deemed as mistaken as the judgment that Buthelezi merited British support against Mandela. It showed deep confusion. So, more as farce than tragedy, does the former leader's insistence that she did not understand what she was doing when she signed Britain into the EU's Single European Act. This is the originating document of the single market, the aspect of Europe she most approves of. It also expands the reach of majority voting which she now abominates. She presumes to resolve this contra-

# Long may we go out in the midday sun



Richard Boston

SOME 20 years ago Les Powles gave up his job as a radio engineer and built himself a boat on which he has lived ever since. Not only that, he sailed single-handedly round the world in it. Then he did it again, in the other direction. Now, at the age of 70, he has stepped ashore at Lynnhington, Hampshire, having (not entirely liberally) sailed from New Zealand to England non-stop. In spite of a cypripis, he has lived for months on corn beef and a few spoonfuls of rice a day. This sounds like a improvement on his diet during the previous voyage, when he subsisted on rice mixed with toothpaste. Now, having lost five stone, he wants to put on a bit of weight and then sail to the other side. Why does he do it? Many people wouldn't even ask such a question. They're the ones who find nothing odd in the reply Mallory made when asked why he wanted to climb Everest. "Because it is there." To me this remark is simply daft. You might as well say you want to eat a cowpat "because it is there". And why do I very much not want to climb Everest? Because it is there.

endangers the lives of people who have to rescue them, which the intrepid Mr Powles has not done.

Fortunately our society still abounds in eccentrics all over the place. They are an essential defence against conformity. What Tabasco sauce is to food, eccentrics are to society. Some of them you may find entertaining, some irritating, but we would be poorer without such characters as Eddie the Eagle, Spike Milligan, Dame Barbara Cartland, Patrick Moore, Magnus Pyke, Barbara Woodhouse and Siger Wendy Beckett. I confess that there are some in that list I can't abide.

And at a time when we have two political parties of scarcely distinguishable dullness, thank goodness for Ken Livingstone, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell, and even for that matter Teresa Gorman and James Goldsmith, and the Yogic flyers of the Natural Law Party, Screaming Lord Sutch and Miss Whiplash.

The distinctions may have to be made between eccentrics, non-conformists and mavericks (named after Samuel A Maverick, a Texas rancher who did not brand his cattle) and those people who are just dotty or neurotic. Some of the latter can be a real pain, but I would suggest that an eccentric is someone who walks by himself without demanding company and is a law unto himself without wishing to impose that law on other people. The eccentric may be aware that his or her behaviour is different from that of most people, but still considers that behaviour to be most sensible. Being in a minority of one makes no difference. Such unconventional behaviour should at the very least be tolerated. In politics, arts and science it should be admired. J.S. Mill says, in On Liberty: "Eccentricity has always abounded when and where strength of character has abounded, and the amount of eccentricity in a society has generally been proportional to the amount of genius, mental vigour, and moral courage which it contained."

Eccentricity is an incidental declaration of independence. Thoreau said that if a man isn't in step with his companions, "perhaps it is because he bears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away".

Dr David Weeks is a clinical neuropsychologist at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital who has spent 10 years studying 1,000 eccentrics. He found that characteristics they have in common include bad spelling, non-conformity, creativity, curiosity, idealism, a hobby obsession with one or more hobbyhorses (often five or six), intelligence, a mischievous sense of humour, unusual eating habits or living arrangements, and better than average mental and physical health. Also, they live longer than most. Sounds all right. Of course, if everyone was eccentric, it would be eccentric not to be.

Martin Woollacott says it's time the new generation relieved Mandela of his burden while, above, Hugo Young argues that Britain failed South Africa in her hour of need

# In Nelson's shadow

IT IS only 12 years since the apartheid regime began tentatively negotiating with the imprisoned Nelson Mandela. It is only 10, to show how much things have changed, since the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group flew out of South Africa in protest after P.W. Botha ordered military raids on African National Congress bases outside the country. It is only seven since the ANC's Harare Declaration, opened up the possibility of serious negotiations, and only six since Mandela was released.

Now he is the guest of the Queen and the toast of Britain. But his visit has another significance, marking the transition, internationally, from a time of celebration and hat-throwing to a time of hard bargaining and hard choices for South Africa. The completion of the constitution and the withdrawal of the National Party from the government earlier this year ended a period during which the country was worked out between two warring opponents: the white-minority government in KwaZulu, and without crippling disagreements. The world marvelled and so did South Africans themselves. Above all, they marvelled at Mandela. White support for him went up from 5 per cent in polls in 1994 to over 50 per cent now.

But these achievements are already yesterday's work, and Mandela himself is already, in some sense, history. The generation of which he is a part has already gone. His longevity, his will, and his qualities mean he will for some time longer play an important role, but inevitably the work to come will be done by men and women who are young enough to be his children and grandchildren. Difficult though the political settlement has been, the problems that now have to be tackled will be more difficult, and that of maintaining effective leadership especially hard after Mandela.

South Africa has to engage again with the formidable inter-related issues of internal stability on the one hand and of its place in the world economy on the other. Again, these are old problems in South Africa, whose economic life has always been managed politically and yet whose political life has always been buffeted by economic changes, sanctions being only the most extreme case of such pressures. That case of which Mandela is accompanied on this trip by 100 businessmen and economic negotiators. South Africa has to bid for investment and trade in a world where capital can pick and choose much more widely than in the past, and it has to bid for it in a way that does not lead to political and social catastrophe.

There are two views about the South Africa of today. One is that it is a wealthy country whose wealth just needs to be divided more fairly. The other is that it is a potentially poor country, a country on the edge, a place where political mismanagement could lead to an economic disaster. The latter is closer to the truth than the former. The new South African government inherited a protected economy with some distant similarities to Russia. The old regime had always seen self-reliance as a virtue, even more so as sanctions came in. Now, as the tariff barriers come down, many firms are threatened, and with them the jobs that South Africa needs to meet the aspirations of its black urban population. Investment from abroad is needed, in the first instance, to upgrade South Africa's capacity to supply its own market and stop South Africa losing jobs, even though the government's plans, of course, assume that major increases in jobs, of the order of 250,000 new ones a year by 2000, are going to be possible. Battle has already been joined between the unions, which want to preserve and extend to new workers the relatively reasonable wages some South African black workers receive, and the business community, which argues that investment will not materialise unless there is a two-tier labour market, with one tier largely unregulated. It has also been joined on privatisation, with the government edging closer to an option which would bring it considerable income. But privatisation, if it follows the pattern elsewhere, would strip out jobs and reduce the wages of those who remain. Both the two-tier and the privatisation options run against the political grain. The ANC did not make a revolution in



## NatWest Interest rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 9 July 1996:

Savings	Gross Rate per annum		
	Gross Rate per annum	Gross C.A.R.	Net Rate per annum
TESSA Reserve <i>The Free Savings No Minimum Balance</i>	6.000%	6.14%	N/A
Diamond Reserve <i>1 Month Notice - Interest paid monthly</i>	£100,000 + £50,000 - £99,999 £25,000 - £49,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £2,000 - £9,999	5.000% 4.375% 4.000% 3.500% 2.625%	5.12% 4.46% 4.07% 3.56% 2.10%
Premium Reserve <i>Instant Access - Interest paid quarterly</i>	£50,000 + £25,000 - £49,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £2,000 - £9,999	3.625% 3.125% 2.750% 2.500%	3.67% 3.16% 2.78% 2.00%
First Reserve <i>Instant Access - Interest paid quarterly</i>	£1,000 + £500 - £999 £250 - £499 £100 - £249 £0 - £99	2.375% 2.125% 1.000% 0.875% 0.750%	2.40% 2.14% 1.00% 0.88% 0.60%

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reduced by resident non-taxpayers). Interest for example, subject to the required registration terms, interest will be paid gross. The Gross Rate is the rate before deducting income tax. The Net Rate is the rate paid after the deduction of lower rate income tax, currently at 20%.

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Finance Guardian

Granada and Carlton shed surplus ITN stock

CARLTON Communications and Granada yesterday sold the last of their surplus shares in Independent Television News in a deal valuing the newscaster at more than £102 million, writes Lisa Buckingham.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRY WEAVER

Labour demands full facts on public finance after Europe warns against tax cuts before election

Come clean, Clarke urged

John Palmer in Brussels and Larry Elliott

LABOUR sought last night to exploit the Government's discomfort over the poor state of the public finances, after the European Union became the latest organisation to warn against pre-election tax cuts.

today to increase his 1996-7 estimate for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement from £22.5 billion to around £28 billion, after acknowledging at the weekend that Treasury officials had "got their sums wrong".

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, said yesterday that it was not acceptable for Mr Clarke to blame mistakes on his "boffins".

Clarke needed to spell out how much the "mistake" on tax revenues had cost, the impact of the black economy on VAT receipts, the extent of tax avoidance in the corporate sector, the effect of slower growth on the PSBR and the cost of social security over-runs this year.

the monetary committee underlines that all EU countries, with the exception of Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg, have not yet sufficiently reduced their budget deficits to meet the criteria for a single currency set out in the Maastricht treaty.

ing: "There would appear to be no room for relaxation with respect to revenue and expenditure policy."

No recovery evident at factory gate

Sarah Ryle

SPECULATION that interest rates will be cut after official figures showed that manufacturers cut prices for the second month in a row in an effort to boost sluggish demand and clear stock backlogs.

sistent with our view that base rates can fall by another quarter-point in the autumn," Gerard Lyons, of DKB International, said.

Analysts said manufacturers were able to cut prices partly because their own input costs fell last month. The prices of fuel and raw materials decreased in part because a stronger pound made imports cheaper.

price cuts. This was underlined by separate ONS figures for output in the production industries.

The Chancellor said he still believed tax cuts were "a good thing" but added: "You only get tax cuts when when you have got your public spending under control, have still respected your priority spending commitments and have got your borrowing on a firm downward path after Hoover's disastrous 1992 UK sales promotion - Maytag was left with a bill of over £48 million when more than 220,000 people enjoyed free airline tickets after buying Hoover appliances.

BA welcomes exhumation of its 'dirty tricks'

Keith Harper, Transport Editor

BRITISH Airways yesterday welcomed a US justice department investigation into its planned alliance with American Airlines and is expected to offer evidence to the inquiry later this week.

European airlines which require anti-trust immunity from the US transportation department.

Britain sucks £7.8m from Hoover

Ian King

CANDY, the Italian car-cleaning giant, said yesterday it was investing £7.8 million in its British operations, creating more than 60 new jobs and safeguarding over 2,000 more.

fourth-biggest maker of white goods, is also investing £4.75 million in Hoover's vacuum cleaner plant at Cambuslang, Strathclyde, from where it will launch three new ranges over the next year.

south Wales is reasonably comparable with Italy, but there are fewer levels, fewer social charges, which is a distinct advantage of the UK

over Germany, Italy and France."



GrandMet to slice up its foods

Lisa Buckingham

GRAND Metropolitan, the food and drinks group at the centre of weekend takeover speculation, is expected to sell or close down a slice of its European food operations in an attempt to improve profits and raise its standing with City shareholders.

best of relations with investors recently, is expected to start to reshape the business before the end of the year.

of £250 million in the first half of the financial year, said yesterday its recent record for mega-takeovers had ended.

growth. It also highlighted the fact that Guinness is lagging behind GrandMet in the attempt to boost volumes and prices by spending heavily on advertising - a tactic which would involve accepting a short-term hit to profits for the group whose main spirits brands include Johnnie Walker and Gordon's Gin.

Notebook

Piloting the path to Pyrrhic victory



Edited by Patrick Donovan

BRITISH Airways pilots should beware. Their dispute has all the trappings of a Wapping or a miners' strike of 10 years ago: a single powerful group of workers who can bring their organisation to a halt at a stroke.

when it warned that house price inflation would average no more than 5.5 per cent over the rest of the decade - far lower than rates forecast by the rest of the industry.

It has more to do with BA's decision to make savings of £1 billion over the next four years, a move which has sent a tremor through BA's 53,000 staff.

The L&G forecast bodes well for the future. Few benefit from boom-bust property cycles. Homes should be bought to live in, not as speculative investments.

There is still a week to go before the strike goes ahead, time enough for a settlement to emerge. But already there is private talk about lay-offs, contracting out work to other airlines and employing non-union labour.

The continuing bid to drum up demand and the reduction in core producer prices show that the Chancellor's last rate cut to 5.75 per cent was needed. In the past, Mr Clarke has tended to focus on the health of manufacturing, and output was certainly weak last month. Officials have predicted that factory sector growth will remain flat, and he might be tempted to cut again. But this might be less justifiable.

Hold the toast

CHANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke yesterday ruled out big tax cuts in the run-up to the next election. But the Government may yet be able to count on the return of the "feel-good" factor for mortgage-obsessed Middle England, thanks to what appears to be a sustained upturn in the property market.

There are already signs that manufacturing performance will pick up, even without a base-rate reduction.

For months, self-serving forecasts from the personal finance industry have been predicting a steady increase in prices. Yesterday, their bullish claims were given extra weight by Legal & General, the insurance company whose research is regarded as among the most cautious in the City.

There is a strong argument that a rate cut simply to boost manufacturing activity would be a mistake. However, Mr Clarke will not want to keep base rates any higher than necessary. With inflationary pressure seemingly benign, he may feel another 25 basis-points cut would not jeopardise his 2.5 per cent inflation target. In those circumstances, another reduction would be justifiable.

Iron Maiden's managers test rave nation's mettle over name

Ian King

THERE was a note of discord in two Sanctuaries yesterday, with the heavy metal band Iron Maiden's managers readying for battle with a bunch of rave organisers.

Sanctuary Leisure is sensitive that Sanctuary Leisure operates in an area, raves, that the music industry is deeply suspicious of," he added.

Table with columns for Country, Rate, and City. Includes Australia 1.865, Austria 18.22, Belgium 47.42, Canada 2.075, Cyprus 0.707, Denmark 2.925, Finland 7.19, France 7.775, Germany 2.36, Greece 364.50, Hong Kong 11.72, India 54.74, Ireland 0.9465, Israel 4.98, Italy 2.356, Japan 0.590, Netherlands 2.59, New Zealand 2.195, Norway 9.8575, Portugal 23.00, Saudi Arabia 5.79, South Africa 5.5, Singapore 2.15, Spain 133.75, Sweden 10.1975, Switzerland 1.825, Turkey 123.508, USA 1.5200.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding inflation rates and Israeli shekel).

# 12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

## Minor league victories boost conviction rate

# Budget pressures spoil SFO success

Dan Atkinson

NEARLY eight out of 10 defendants prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office during the past year were convicted, and all but one of those found guilty were sent to prison. These results have turned around a decline in the conviction rate from 71 per cent in 1992/93 to just 51 per cent last year.

Four of the five people acquitted during 1995/96 were the defendants in the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell and former Robert Maxwell employees Robert Bunn and Larry Trachtenberg. The fifth was the girlfriend of a convicted man.

Despite the 78 per cent conviction rate, director George Staple warned that the SFO's budget will come under critical pressure within the next few months if there is no increase in resources.

The anti-fraud strike force is "very much at the limit", he said. The budget for this year stands at £16.69 million, against spending of £20.99 million during 1992/93.

While the SFO accepts that some fall was inevitable, as major inquiries such as Bank of Credit and Commerce International and Polly Peck were wound down, it fears a continuing cost squeeze may affect its efficiency.

This is a particular worry as the office embarked on a full-blown inquiry into the London copper market, in the wake of the exposure of rogue trader Yasuo Hamanaka. The maverick dealer, who worked for Japan's Sumitomo group, ran up at least \$1.8 billion (£1.2 billion) in losses on his unauthorised trades.

Should the copper scandal prove to rate an inquiry on the scale of BCCI — now winding down after total costs estimated at \$5 million — then the SFO may have to ask Parliament for extra money.

August's public spending round will see the SFO battling hard to avoid a further squeeze on its budget. In the meantime, the SFO report for 1995/96, published yesterday, shows a continuing shift towards smaller, provincial swindles and "investor" crimes — those involving the

'SFO budget will come under critical pressure within the next few months if there is no increase in resources'

GEORGE STAPLE has delivered his last annual report as Serious Fraud Office director; he leaves Elm Street next month, destination unknown.

Four years ago, the Maxwell empire had just collapsed, the BCCI inquiry was in full swing and Guinness cases were still moving towards trial.

Yesterday, Mr Staple made it clear he has not decided whether to return to his old post as senior litigation partner at City solicitors Clifford Chance.

Despite a stormy tenure that has seen the flight of Al Nadin and the collapse of a number of high-profile cases, he has no regrets about having taken a job he found "immensely interesting".

defrauding of ordinary members of the public.

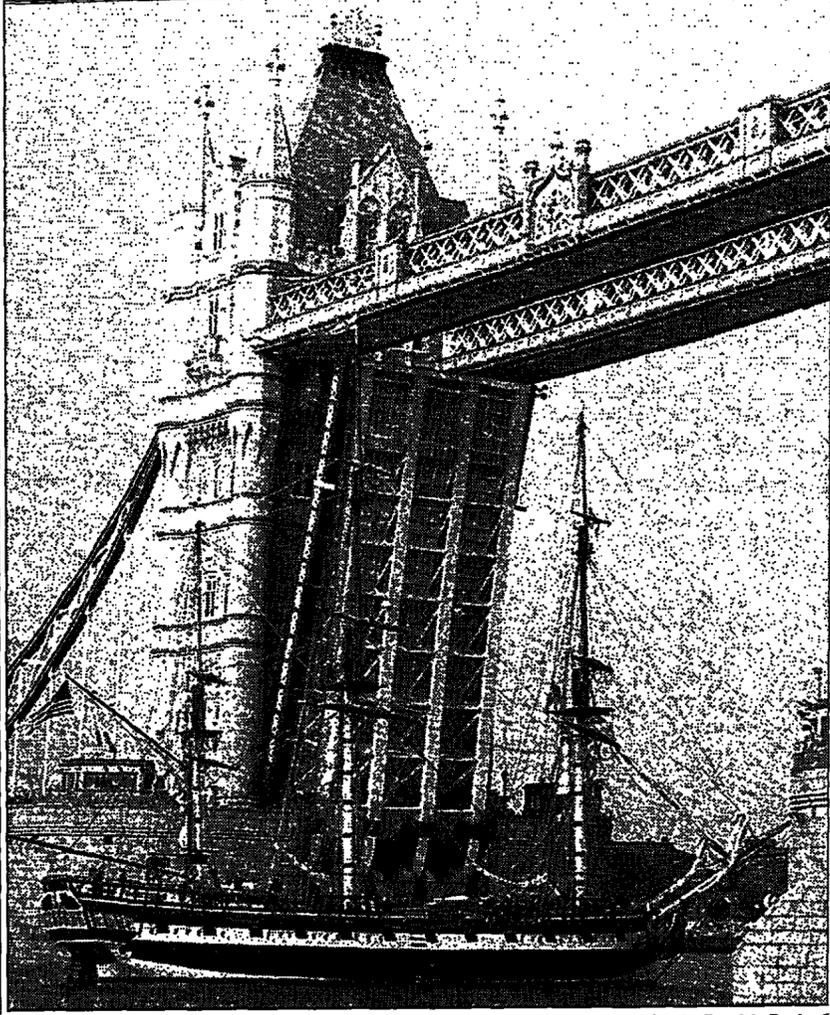
This is partly a result of the March 1996 reduction, from \$5 million to £1 million, of the size of fraud that will be considered by the SFO. Successful cases from the past year which highlight this change of emphasis, and were mentioned in yesterday's report, include a crooked food and drink supplier in the Midlands and a bent solicitor on the south coast.

SFO barristers are now as likely to be found in a provincial Crown Court, prosecuting relatively minor-league swindlers, as in the Old Bailey handling big fraud cases. Mr Staple said this re-shaping of the SFO as the small investors' friend was "partly deliberate", but was also a by-product of the economic cycle — there were simply fewer big frauds around.

The number of investor frauds investigated by the SFO rose from 14 in 1994/95 to 29 last year, of the increase of 15, six would have been eligible for SFO treatment under the old criteria and the remaining nine would have been ruled out when the \$5 million threshold was operative.

While accepting that the "widows and orphans-type" victims of investor frauds are more sympathetic to the general public, Mr Staple rejected the idea that "market" offences were merely technical infringements. "I have no doubt myself that there are real victims."

Mr Staple added that 80 per cent of its cases now involved people or firms unregulated by any city or professional agency. To try to improve its existence deterred fraud in unregulated areas, he said, then the SFO itself was the de facto regulator.



Sail of the centuries... HMS Rose, replica of a frigate built in Hull in 1787, sponsored by the People's Bank of Connecticut, passes Tower Bridge after her maiden voyage across the Atlantic

# Hanson erodes US coal profits

Roger Cowe

HANSON said yesterday that profits of Peabody, its US coal subsidiary, would be hit by \$70 million a year when it abandons controversial accounting policies in preparation for the flotation of the company as part of Hanson's break-up.

Following the announcement, Hanson's shares fell 2.5p to a five-year low of 169.5p. The shares have slipped 21 per cent so far this year.

When the conglomerate bought Peabody in 1990 it made large provisions to cover pension and sickness payments. But yesterday the parent company said it would remove \$1.2 billion from Peabody's balance sheet, charging the payments instead against profits each year.

The costs will be charged in proportion to coal output, in line with accounting practice in the industry. This will reduce profits by \$70 million each year, although cash payments will not be affected.

Another accounting change will wipe \$2.3 billion from the balance-sheet value of the Cornerstone aggregates business, and a further \$0.6 billion from Peabody.

This change, too, will have no impact on cash flows but will result in a small rise in annual profits.

Hanson said the demerger of Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco was still on schedule for October 1, and coal and electricity interests, including Eastern Electricity, will be floated off next year as The Energy Group.

The conglomerate said the demerger would cost \$20 million in fees to Rothschilds, Hoare Govett and other advisers.

# Farmers learn Dairy Crest float choices as Unigate widens spread with Kraft buy

Roger Cowe

AS Dairy Crest moved a step closer yesterday to floating off from its Milk Marketing Board parent, its rival Unigate acquired Kraft's European spreads business to build up its non-milk operations.

Dairy Crest issued a pathfinder prospectus detailing the structure of the share offer that will give farmers the chance of cashing in their ownership of the company or taking up shares when it floats on the stock market.

The share price will be announced on July 31, with share dealings beginning on August 28.

Two-thirds of farmers have indicated that they intend to take shares in the company. Almost a third of the total shares will be placed with financial institutions.

any new funds, nor are any shares being offered to the public. The purpose of the flotation, which was originally planned to coincide with the end of the old milk regime two years ago, is to repay debts owed to farmers by the Residual Milk Marketing Board.

In the past two years, Dairy Crest has lowered costs and made acquisitions to reduce its dependence on liquid milk and commodity cheese. Chief executive John Houlston said markets remained tough, with doorstep milk deliveries continuing to fall.

The promised growth over the next couple of years, however, from the Clover spread brand and the joint venture with Yoplait. "We are a hard-driving, hard-running commercial business. We have an attractive set of cards in our hands."

Unigate strengthened its St Ivel business by paying

\$77 million for Kraft's European margarine and spreads operation.

The deal will put together Unigate's Uterley Butterley and Gold brands with Kraft's Vitalite and Golden Churn, creating a broader collection across the spreads market.

Kraft also sold its small Italian operation. Most of the business is in the UK, however, where sales last year were £36 million.

Ross Buckland, Unigate's chief executive, said: "This acquisition adds high-profile brands to our existing portfolio and significantly expands our market presence in the UK."

# Thousands to escape negative equity trap

Jill Papworth

HOUSE prices are set to rise annually by an average 6 per cent over the next four years — enough to eliminate negative equity for most sufferers by 1998, according to a new report.

Legal & General Investment Management predicts that over the next seven years, house prices will increase by a total 40 per cent, making the average price just over £72,000 by 2002.

The expected increase in prices should be enough to wipe out negative equity by

1998 for most of the 1.1 million-plus homeowners whose properties are currently worth less than their mortgage debt, said L&G's strategy director, David Shaw.

"A 6 per cent increase over the next year or so alone should remove some 200,000 people from negative equity," he said.

After falling for the past six and a half years, house prices, "which significantly overshot on the downside, are now poised for a sustained, albeit modest, cyclical recovery."

Mr Shaw said, "Job insecurity, sluggish disposable income growth

Year	Inflation %	Price Average	Price £
1996	2.5	5.50	53,800
1997	3.0	7.50	57,830
1998	3.5	5.75	61,150
1999	4.0	6.00	64,820
2000	4.0	4.85	67,830
2001	3.0	3.50	70,200
2002	2.5	2.85	72,200

and negative equity have driven prices into a far lower cyclical trough than has ever been previously encountered, he said.

But three factors now

signal recovery: current low mortgage rates, increased "property affordability" — the ratio of house prices to average earnings — and a sharp acceleration in money supply growth.

These three indicators "all now sit at levels that have historically stimulated a cyclical rise in property prices," he said.

Rob Thomas, housing analyst at UBS, said: "L&G's forecasts are very close to what we've been saying for some time."

"We predict a 34 per cent rise in house prices by the end of the year 2,000 — a good increase but not

that sensational compared with past upswings in the housing market."

House price forecasts from the Halifax, Britain's largest mortgage lender, are more conservative in the long term, with a 20 to 25 per cent increase over the next five years.

But all three of the commentators are broadly in line with a 5 to 5.5 per cent rise forecast for this year.

Mr Thomas commented: "There's a consensus forming on house prices, which is a bit worrying because there's always a danger of complacency when everyone agrees."

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# Tomkins' cash cache

Outlook  
Pauline Springett

THE lack of horrors in Tomkins' figures allowed company chairman Greg Hutchings breathing space to concentrate on the coming year rather than the past 12 months.

The profits were up, despite the slump in lawnmower sales caused by the severe weather in North America earlier in the year. But that was an explicable slip, and anyway the freeze triggered a surge in demand for snow-blowing machines.

The big issue now facing Tomkins is its acquisition of the US company, Gates Rubber, announced last year. The deal was given the thumbs-up by the City, which considered Gates' £1.2 billion sales business producing power-transmission belts and hoses — a good fit with Tomkins' established operation.

There then followed several months of uncertainty, after which it emerged that there were various tax hurdles standing in the path of the Gates family. But it should be finalised at the end of July, assuming that nothing crawls out of the woodwork.

Gates' year has started well, and there are opportunities for growth.

Mr Hutchings emphasised that the deal had been structured so that it would not be dilutive.

Tomkins is paying for Gates with \$1,160 million (£75 million) of convertible shares and a £200 million cash injection to write off the company's debt.

Meanwhile, Mr Hutchings has to tread the delicate line between emphasising what a terrific company Gates is and pointing out that Tomkins can achieve real earnings growth with it by developing the business.

and accounting systems. Tomkins estimates such a move could save up to £250 million, or a third of the cost of buying the company.

Gates may be the main item on Mr Hutchings' agenda at the moment, but it is by no means the only one. The integration of food group Banks Hovis Mr DeLuca — which it bought in 1992 for £250 million — has, he says, completed its first stage.

Tomkins says it has boosted RHM's operating profit by nearly 45 per cent, achieved on the back of only an 11 per cent sales increase.

The next stage at RHM, said Mr Hutchings, was to "get 2000 ongoing growth, to invest in the business and build it up."

Certainly Tomkins has enough spare cash to invest. It ended the year with a net balance of £204.5 million in its coffers — £105 million more than the previous year. Even

after the debt write-off at Gates its gearing will be nil. Mr Hutchings is not ruling out a share buyback, and there will no doubt be acquisitions when Gates has bedded down. Meanwhile general strategy at Tomkins appears unchanged — spending on the established businesses to improve growth.

That does not rule out the odd disposal, should a business fail to come up to scratch.

"It's not making any money," said Mr Hutchings. Efforts would be made to improve the profits, he said, neatly sidestepping the question of whether a disposal is on the agenda.

**Tomkins**

	£	% change
Sales	3602.9m	-3
Pre-tax profit	322.9m	6.5
Earnings per share	18.70p	7
Dividend	9.95p	15

Operating profits: £m	Margin % increase
Fluid controls	40.7
Service to industry	23.7
Professional, garden & leisure products	35.8
Industrial products	69.4
Milling & bakery	39.5
Food products	95.1

# News in brief

## Water chief's pay-off attacked by Labour

A BUMPER pay-off for a water company chief provoked condemnation from Labour yesterday and a warning that a windfall tax would be imposed on the utilities if the party won the election. Bill Fraser, former managing director of South West Water, received £889,500 in pay, perks and compensation for loss of office.

According to the annual report, Mr Fraser was paid £226,000 in compensation, £110,000 in pension and other payments, holds share options worth £279,500 and was paid £24,000 in his last year in office. He has also been given a consultancy with his former employers, worth £50,000.

Ian McCartney, Labour employment spokesman, said such "fatuity-style pay-offs" showed the need for a windfall tax. "This money should be going to youngsters into jobs, not padding out the pockets of utility fat cats." — Chris Barrie

## BG chooses troubleshooter

BRITISH Gas yesterday completed a lengthy search for a finance director for its troubled trading arm, British Gas Energy, by appointing Mark Clark, its own financial controller, to one of the most testing finance jobs in the privatised utility.

He will have to unscramble BGE's huge exposure for take-or-pay gas contracts and prepare the company to meet competition in the domestic market in 1998.

The company has also appointed Simon Lewis, head of public relations at NatWest and a former director of public relations for the SDF, as director of corporate affairs to polish up BGE's image after a two-year battering in which customer complaints have risen to record levels. — Simon Beavis

## Airbus on corporate runway

THE first steps to transform Airbus Industrie, the four-nation aircraft maker, from a specially protected state-controlled consortium into a corporation were agreed in Paris yesterday.

Airbus — comprising Aerospatiale of France, DASA of Germany, British Aerospace and CASA of Spain — has been under pressure from US rivals like Boeing to adopt normal corporate status and said it would try to agree a plan for transformation by the end of the year. — Simon Beavis

## Cheaper BT calls abroad

BT is to cut the cost of international phone calls at the weekend by up to 25 per cent. More than eight out of 10 calls abroad on Saturdays and Sundays are made by domestic customers. BT is obliged to cut its prices under the formula limiting price changes to inflation minus 7.5 per cent.

The new weekend rate, which starts on September 6, will cost BT \$25 million out of total cuts of more than £300 million due on August 1. — PA

## BSkyB takes German partner

SATELLITE TV company, BSkyB, has teamed with the Kirch group of Germany to develop pay-TV services there. The deal follows the collapse of earlier efforts by BSkyB to participate in a multi-billion dollar alliance between Bertelsmann and CLT which was finished yesterday. — Lisa Buckingham

Vertical sidebar containing various advertisements and notices, including 'Farm', 'Newmarket', and 'Channel 4'.



WIMBLEDON GOES INTO EXTRA TIME



They shall not pass... Mark Woodforde and Larisa Neiland defend the net and keep a full house entertained during one of their three matches in the mixed doubles yesterday. Their winning run was eventually halted in the final when they were beaten by the Czech pair Cyril Suk and Helena Sukova



Grasping the moment... Martina Hingis, right, celebrates her first Wimbledon title with Sukova PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JEVONS

Hingis comes of age as youngest winner

Richard Jago sees 109 years of history rewritten in five minutes as the Swiss prodigy gets a doubles first on a packed Centre Court

IT TOOK five lively minutes for Martina Hingis to complete the task of becoming the youngest winner of a Wimbledon title at 15 years and 292 days, displacing Lottie Dod who was three days older when she won the women's singles in 1887. The prodigy and her partner Helen Sukova rapidly snaffled the last two games of the women's doubles final which had been held over from Sunday when rain stopped play. News that Hingis was on the verge of making history helped bring fans by the wagon-load to participate in the noisy last rites of the 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Larisa Neiland and Meredith McGrath.

By one o'clock 11,000 spectators had passed through Wimbledon's gates and there was a sense of involvement not experienced since the first Sunday in 1889 which was dubbed People's Day. The most punctual witness to a mere 14 points before Hingis's top-spin lob and double-handed backhand combined to convert a 30-40 break point on McGrath's serve and to complete the bit of history. Most of the cries had been to "come on Martina" and at the climax a bouquet was tossed on to the court for the legend's namesake. The young girl stooped to gather it with the smile that had illuminated so many of the rallies. It left no doubt of her star quality. Despite her vulnerabilities on serve Hingis looks a more complete player than previous prodigies such as Tracy Austin, Andrea Jaeger, Kathy Rinaldi or Jennifer Capriati. Despite a childlike aura - perhaps because of it - she has refreshing presence. And despite immense

ambition her precocity is not yet grotesque. "I'm pleased to have done this. For every tennis player it's a big goal to win Wimbledon even if it's doubles," Hingis said with a grin, managing to convey an impression, without giving offense, that this was "only doubles". She added: "I break so many records already. I hope winning this will help me win the singles." Few doubt she can. Fewer who saw Sunday's startling turn-around should doubt she will. It was Hingis's forehand top-spin lob over McGrath that did more than anything to spring the contest, clinching the break-back against Neiland's serve for 4-5 in the second set. It also highlighted an increasing mobility problem for the American, whose right leg was heavily strapped and Hingis and Sukova exploited it with three more top-spin lob winners to break in the next service game. By then the odd-looking partnership - Sukova is twice as old and eight inches

taller than Hingis - were conferring and hand-slapping exuberantly than ever. The Monaco-based Czech had been the general while the Czechoslovak-born Swiss had been struggling with her serve in the first half of the match. But in the change of mood created by the ninth game of the second set, Hingis became inspired, and it was she who grabbed hold of the match. She held serve for the second set and then led the

irresistible momentum which delivered Hingis often by express post. The revelation had been the firmness and enterprise of her volleying. She has not often revealed this in singles. If she can integrate it with those rhythmic ground strokes, perhaps when her serving becomes heavier, she should have a crucial extra dimension to her play. Hingis has been the youngest player to win a title at a Grand Slam championship (at 12), the youngest to win

Junior Wimbledon (at 13) and now the youngest to win a Wimbledon senior title. The biggest threat to Graf's chances of a record 10 Wimbledon singles titles may be Martina Mark II. Viewing figures for the climax of the men's singles final at Wimbledon were 500,000 up on those for the 1995 championships, writes Andrea Cuff. Unofficial estimates recorded a peak of 9.8 million for the match between Rich-

ard Krajicek and MaliVal Washington. But figures for the entire match were down. The BBC said the final averaged about 6.5 million compared to 7.9 million in 1995. The women's final between Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario also produced a fall on the previous year. Unofficial figures recorded a peak of 6.9 million and an average of six million, compared to 8.7 million and 6.8 million for Graf's 1995 triumph.

Henman in top forty as Krajicek goes to No. 8

Stephen Bierley IT WAS stock-taking time for British tennis yesterday as Wimbledon drew to its extended close and the latest world-ranking positions were released. They show that Tim Henman, who began the tournament in 62nd place, now stands 39th, easily the highest position of his career. In June last year he was world-ranked No. 276. Later this week Henman

will lead Britain's Davis Cup side against Ghana in Accra, a Euro-African zone Group Two match. His next big individual challenge, aside from the Olympic Games, will be the US Open at Flushing Meadow, which begins on August 26. Several leading players, including Pete Sampras, were highly complimentary about the British No. 1 during Wimbledon but he knows his further progress will be doubly difficult from now on.

Clearly his outstanding performance in reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals was in beating the French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov. What followed was routine until he met Todd Martin, the sort of honest, powerful and awkward player he must learn to beat regularly if he is to reach the top 20. Yet he has shown great resolve and mental toughness, and his rise in the last 12 months has been remarkable.

Buster Mottram (15) and John Lloyd (23) are the previously highest ranked British players since the first ATP list in 1973. Wimbledon success, albeit a little less rarefied than Henman's, lifted Danny Sapsford from 196 to 188, Mark Petchey from 202 to 188, Colin Beecher from 323 to 285 and Luke Milligan, Henman's third-round victim, from 278 to 217. One notable mover in the opposite direction was Greg Rusedzki. Britain's

No. 2, now suffering from a hip injury, was ranked 33 earlier in the year and has dropped down to 72. Richard Krajicek's Wimbledon title lifted him to No. 8 in the rankings with Chile's Marcelo Rios, a recent entry into the top 10, slipping back. Rios chose not to play Wimbledon but will be a player to watch at the US Open. MaliVal Washington, runner-up to Krajicek on Sunday, has risen to No. 12, one below his highest ranking.

Soccer

Beck joins international set down by the Riverside

WITH Middlesbrough rapidly becoming the Premiership's most cosmopolitan team, the Danish international striker Mikkell Beck is the latest foreign player to start training at the Riverside Stadium. He has signed for Bryan Robson's club after returning through a contract dispute with Borussia Dortmund. It is not all sweetness and light for Robson, however. The player-manager has been ordered to appear before an FA disciplinary commission in Manchester on August 9 to explain his club's poor behaviour last season. Dean Saunders, the 31-year-old Wales striker, yesterday returned to the Premiership with Nottingham Forest in a £1.5 million move from Galatasaray. He trained with his

new team-mates as Forest's manager Frank Clark agreed a £1m deal for the Croatian defender Nikola Jerkan. Manchester United still expect to tie up a £3.5m deal for the Slavia Prague and Czech Republic midfielder Karel Poborsky in the next few days even though United's legal director Maurice Watkins said yesterday "there has been a slight hitch". Aston Villa, meanwhile, expect to complete the signing of the 25-year-old Portuguese right-back Fernando Nelson from Sporting Lisbon. Queens Park Rangers must pay £350,000 to Tottenham for the striker Steve Slade, a tribunal ruled yesterday. Rangers had offered £100,000. Wrexham have agreed a fee of £100,000 for the Leicester defender Brian Carey.

Results

Soccer

PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 1, Manchester United 1; Liverpool 1, Tottenham 1; Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 1; Blackburn 1, Manchester City 1; Newcastle 1, Coventry 1; Everton 1, Derby 1; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Sheffield United 1; Southampton 1, Reading 1; West Ham 1, Charlton 1; Ipswich 1, Norwich 1; Luton 1, Barnsley 1; Millwall 1, Bournemouth 1; Middlesbrough 1, Notts County 1; Wrexham 1, Exeter 1; Gillingham 1, Peterborough 1; Doncaster 1, Mansfield 1; Lincoln 1, Grimsby 1; Scunthorpe 1, Rotherham 1; Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 1; Brentford 1, Wycombe 1; Bury 1, Rochdale 1; Stockport 1, Oldham 1; Tranmere 1, Hartlepool 1; Southend 1, Leyton Orient 1; Colchester 1, Stevenage 1; Dover 1, Maidstone 1; Dover 1, Maidstone 1; Dover 1, Maidstone 1.

Rugby League

Australian Premiership

Sydney 12, Brisbane Broncos 10; Canberra 12, Newcastle 10; Parramatta 12, Manly 10; Gold Coast 12, St. George 10; Penrith 12, Cronulla 10; North Sydney 12, Wests 10; Eastern Suburbs 12, Balmain 10; Manly 12, Sydney 10; Brisbane Broncos 12, Canberra 10; Newcastle 12, Parramatta 10; Manly 12, Gold Coast 10; St. George 12, Penrith 10; Cronulla 12, North Sydney 10; Wests 12, Eastern Suburbs 10; Balmain 12, Manly 10; Sydney 12, Brisbane Broncos 10; Canberra 12, Newcastle 10; Parramatta 12, Manly 10; Gold Coast 12, St. George 10; Penrith 12, Cronulla 10; North Sydney 12, Wests 10; Eastern Suburbs 12, Balmain 10; Manly 12, Sydney 10; Brisbane Broncos 12, Canberra 10; Newcastle 12, Parramatta 10; Manly 12, Gold Coast 10; St. George 12, Penrith 10; Cronulla 12, North Sydney 10; Wests 12, Eastern Suburbs 10; Balmain 12, Manly 10; Sydney 12, Brisbane Broncos 10; Canberra 12, Newcastle 10; Parramatta 12, Manly 10; Gold Coast 12, St. George 10; Penrith 12, Cronulla 10; North Sydney 12, Wests 10; Eastern Suburbs 12, Balmain 10; 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Cricket

Chaos fear over ICC chairman

David Hopps

THE world game will collapse into chaos over the next three days as International Cricket Council delegates brace themselves for a prolonged war over the identity of the man who will guide it into the next century.

The election at Lord's of the ICC's new chairman might sound inconsequential but at issue is the future direction of the game.

Such is the antiquated nature of the ICC's constitution that the meeting will go ahead with legal arguments over the election of a chairman still unresolved. What voting system is adopted will determine whether Jagmohan Dalmiya, secretary of the Indian board, will win — a result that would horrify his opponents.

Dalmiya's manifesto sounds plausible enough. He favours expansionism, arguing that it is vital to cricket's long-term survival and wants to examine ways of reducing the number of draws in Test cricket. He also displays a healthy wish to dispel what remains of the ICC's cosy-club mentality.

Dalmiya's opponents privately present him as a millionaire businessman with little feel for the game, consumed largely by his political machinations. They speak of an insatiable desire to make Asia as powerful an axis in the 21st century as England and Australia were in the 20th.

Legal arguments concern whether the chairman should be elected by binding resolution, in which case the winners would require two-thirds support from the nine Test nations. Dalmiya can guarantee only India and Pakistan, with Sri Lanka wavering.

Dalmiya's legal representatives insist that the election of chairman is not a binding resolution. He submits that the 22 associate members of the ICC should also be allowed to vote. As a show of compromise he has proposed that Test nations' votes should count double.

Dalmiya believes, after extensive lobbying (calling in the debt for extravagant World Cup financial hand-outs) that he can count on at least 16 associates which, with the backing of three Test nations, would be enough for victory. He does not discount the possibility of 18 associate votes, in which case the support of only two Test nations would be required.

So implacable are Dalmiya's opponents that a stalemate looks increasingly likely. In that event the present chairman Sir Clyde Walcott, whose term should end next July, will be implored to serve for a further year while an updated constitution is thrashed out. The days when the chairman of MCC automatically fulfilled the ICC role are long gone.

"Forget the legal arguments," said one representative. "It is common sense that the majority of Test nations have an important say on major issues. That must remain the underlying principle."

chief executive. To stop Dalmiya, Gray might withdraw and support Mackerdunji but even the latter's nomination is undermined by rumours that an ambassadorial post is in the offing.

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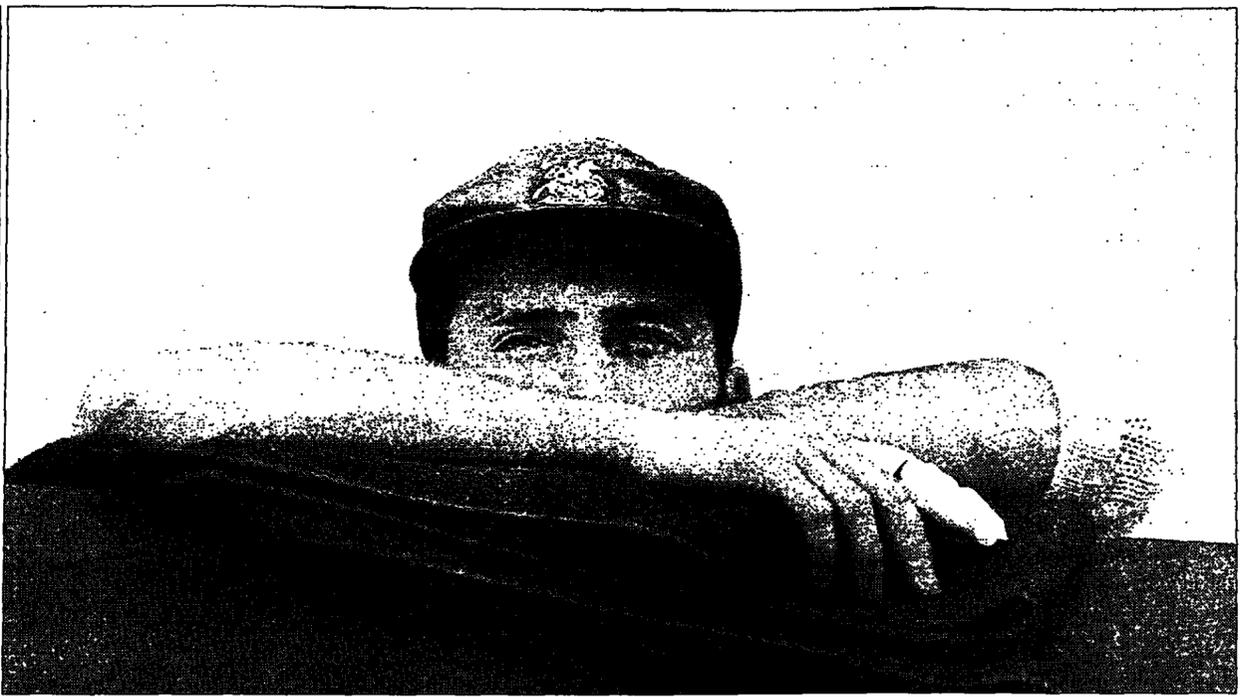
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Broken finger of fate... England's Nasser Hussain, who batted well to make 107 not out against India, looks glum after being forced to sit out the action, such as there was, at Trent Bridge yesterday with an injury that now threatens the in-form Essex batsman's No. 3 place in the starting line-up for the first Test against Pakistan

Championship: Leicestershire v Essex

Mighty Millns minces Essex

Noville Foulger at Grace Road

DAVID MILLNS followed up his maiden first-class century on Saturday by demolishing Essex single-handed before lunch yesterday with 512 wickets in eight overs of aggressive and accurate fast bowling.

The 31-year-old right-arm seamer's inspired spell gave him match figures of 10 for 128 and his county their second successive innings victory.

In fact Leicestershire now have won five of their last nine games at home, with James Whitaker's proficient and determined team giving themselves a realistic chance of taking the title to Grace Road for the first time since 1975. "It's worth putting a few bob on us for the championship," says Millns's summing-up yesterday.

Millns became the first man in eight years to score a century and take 10 wickets in a county match. Franklyn Stephenson did it for Nottinghamshire against Yorkshire in 1988 — but his priorities were crystal-clear after two Achilles tendon operations in the past two years. This has to be the best match of my career but taking 10 wickets gave me more pleasure than

scoring the century," he said. "After my injuries I think a lot of people had written me off so it is nice to show I am still a force. The century was a huge bonus but my job is to bowl sides out."

Among his victims yesterday was the England discard Ronnie Irani, whose second-ball duck gave him a pair for the match.

On a slow-paced Grace Road pitch Essex began the final day at 193 for four, 98 runs behind but with realistic hopes of a draw. Some 35.4 overs and 65 minutes later they were all out for 247, an ignominious defeat by an innings and 44 runs coming after Millns took all six wickets for 29 runs in 7.4 overs.

The decisive wicket was his first, as Essex needed a cap of taking the title to Grace Road for the first time since 1975. "It's worth putting a few bob on us for the championship," says Millns's summing-up yesterday.

Next he had the night-watchman Peter Such splendidly caught low down at gully by Adrian Pierson and an even better catch at long-off by the left-hander, Ian Smith. The best of the new batsmen, inevitably Millns had the last word by bowling Ashley Cowan.

Kent v Durham

McCague in trim as Kent go top

Paul Weaver at Maidstone

THE argument of some in Kent that winning last season's Sunday League had assuaged the pain of finishing bottom of the county championship was about as plausible as Malivi Washington saying that losing at Wimbledon did not really hurt because he had had some nice strawberries and cream.

So, if Kent were not taken seriously by all as title contenders earlier this season, this morning they are, with their fifth championship victory, by 83 runs over Durham here yesterday, put them back on top of the league, clear by five points, but with arguably the tougher half of their season over.

Any victory over Durham — who are a little short when it comes to ability and absolutely bankrupt when it comes to confidence — must be placed in context but this was achieved on a bland pitch and without Mark Bailham and Min Patel.

Carl Hooper is in his most regal form and, perhaps even more crucially, Martin McCague is bowling fast. Their county failed in his attempt to qualify for the Open yesterday. He broke part of his artificial leg in the driving net before the start of the qualifying competition at Copt Hill.

Charles Barkley, the Dream Team forward, was caught up in a late-night bar brawl in Cleveland in the early hours of the morning of a game against Brad Pitt. The 22-year-old salesman filed a complaint accusing Barkley of assault after the two men fell out at a dance club called The Basement on Sunday. Barkley in turn filed a report against Pitt for using "bodily force" against him.

Anatoly Karpov made heavy weather of a harmless endgame but adjourned after six hours and 58 moves in what looks a clear draw against Gata Kamsky in Game 17 of the Fide world-title match at Elista, writes Leonard Barden. If Karpov secures the predicted half point when play resumes this afternoon, he will need only one more draw from three games to stay champion.

Kamsky gained the initiative after a dull opening, establishing a central passed pawn that looked dangerous until Karpov neutralised the danger in the final minutes.

White: Karpov, Black: Kamsky. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.e3 g3 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 5.d5 6.d6 7.e6 8.f4 9.f5 10.g4 11.h4 12.h5 13.g5 14.f6 15.g6 16.h6 17.g7 18.f7 19.e7 20.d7 21.c7 22.b7 23.a7 24.a8 25.b8 26.c8 27.d8 28.e8 29.f8 30.g8 31.h8 32.g7 33.f7 34.e7 35.d7 36.c7 37.b7 38.a7 39.a8 40.b8 41.c8 42.d8 43.e8 44.f8 45.g8 46.h8 47.g7 48.f7 49.e7 50.d7 51.c7 52.b7 53.a7 54.a8 55.b8 56.c8 57.d8 58.e8 59.f8 60.g8 61.h8 62.g7 63.f7 64.e7 65.d7 66.c7 67.b7 68.a7 69.a8 70.b8 71.c8 72.d8 73.e8 74.f8 75.g8 76.h8 77.g7 78.f7 79.e7 80.d7 81.c7 82.b7 83.a7 84.a8 85.b8 86.c8 87.d8 88.e8 89.f8 90.g8 91.h8 92.g7 93.f7 94.e7 95.d7 96.c7 97.b7 98.a7 99.a8 100.b8 101.c8 102.d8 103.e8 104.f8 105.g8 106.h8 107.g7 108.f7 109.e7 110.d7 111.c7 112.b7 113.a7 114.a8 115.b8 116.c8 117.d8 118.e8 119.f8 120.g8 121.h8 122.g7 123.f7 124.e7 125.d7 126.c7 127.b7 128.a7 129.a8 130.b8 131.c8 132.d8 133.e8 134.f8 135.g8 136.h8 137.g7 138.f7 139.e7 140.d7 141.c7 142.b7 143.a7 144.a8 145.b8 146.c8 147.d8 148.e8 149.f8 150.g8 151.h8 152.g7 153.f7 154.e7 155.d7 156.c7 157.b7 158.a7 159.a8 160.b8 161.c8 162.d8 163.e8 164.f8 165.g8 166.h8 167.g7 168.f7 169.e7 170.d7 171.c7 172.b7 173.a7 174.a8 175.b8 176.c8 177.d8 178.e8 179.f8 180.g8 181.h8 182.g7 183.f7 184.e7 185.d7 186.c7 187.b7 188.a7 189.a8 190.b8 191.c8 192.d8 193.e8 194.f8 195.g8 196.h8 197.g7 198.f7 199.e7 200.d7 201.c7 202.b7 203.a7 204.a8 205.b8 206.c8 207.d8 208.e8 209.f8 210.g8 211.h8 212.g7 213.f7 214.e7 215.d7 216.c7 217.b7 218.a7 219.a8 220.b8 221.c8 222.d8 223.e8 224.f8 225.g8 226.h8 227.g7 228.f7 229.e7 230.d7 231.c7 232.b7 233.a7 234.a8 235.b8 236.c8 237.d8 238.e8 239.f8 240.g8 241.h8 242.g7 243.f7 244.e7 245.d7 246.c7 247.b7 248.a7 249.a8 250.b8 251.c8 252.d8 253.e8 254.f8 255.g8 256.h8 257.g7 258.f7 259.e7 260.d7 261.c7 262.b7 263.a7 264.a8 265.b8 266.c8 267.d8 268.e8 269.f8 270.g8 271.h8 272.g7 273.f7 274.e7 275.d7 276.c7 277.b7 278.a7 279.a8 280.b8 281.c8 282.d8 283.e8 284.f8 285.g8 286.h8 287.g7 288.f7 289.e7 290.d7 291.c7 292.b7 293.a7 294.a8 295.b8 296.c8 297.d8 298.e8 299.f8 300.g8 301.h8 302.g7 303.f7 304.e7 305.d7 306.c7 307.b7 308.a7 309.a8 310.b8 311.c8 312.d8 313.e8 314.f8 315.g8 316.h8 317.g7 318.f7 319.e7 320.d7 321.c7 322.b7 323.a7 324.a8 325.b8 326.c8 327.d8 328.e8 329.f8 330.g8 331.h8 332.g7 333.f7 334.e7 335.d7 336.c7 337.b7 338.a7 339.a8 340.b8 341.c8 342.d8 343.e8 344.f8 345.g8 346.h8 347.g7 348.f7 349.e7 350.d7 351.c7 352.b7 353.a7 354.a8 355.b8 356.c8 357.d8 358.e8 359.f8 360.g8 361.h8 362.g7 363.f7 364.e7 365.d7 366.c7 367.b7 368.a7 369.a8 370.b8 371.c8 372.d8 373.e8 374.f8 375.g8 376.h8 377.g7 378.f7 379.e7 380.d7 381.c7 382.b7 383.a7 384.a8 385.b8 386.c8 387.d8 388.e8 389.f8 390.g8 391.h8 392.g7 393.f7 394.e7 395.d7 396.c7 397.b7 398.a7 399.a8 400.b8 401.c8 402.d8 403.e8 404.f8 405.g8 406.h8 407.g7 408.f7 409.e7 410.d7 411.c7 412.b7 413.a7 414.a8 415.b8 416.c8 417.d8 418.e8 419.f8 420.g8 421.h8 422.g7 423.f7 424.e7 425.d7 426.c7 427.b7 428.a7 429.a8 430.b8 431.c8 432.d8 433.e8 434.f8 435.g8 436.h8 437.g7 438.f7 439.e7 440.d7 441.c7 442.b7 443.a7 444.a8 445.b8 446.c8 447.d8 448.e8 449.f8 450.g8 451.h8 452.g7 453.f7 454.e7 455.d7 456.c7 457.b7 458.a7 459.a8 460.b8 461.c8 462.d8 463.e8 464.f8 465.g8 466.h8 467.g7 468.f7 469.e7 470.d7 471.c7 472.b7 473.a7 474.a8 475.b8 476.c8 477.d8 478.e8 479.f8 480.g8 481.h8 482.g7 483.f7 484.e7 485.d7 486.c7 487.b7 488.a7 489.a8 490.b8 491.c8 492.d8 493.e8 494.f8 495.g8 496.h8 497.g7 498.f7 499.e7 500.d7 501.c7 502.b7 503.a7 504.a8 505.b8 506.c8 507.d8 508.e8 509.f8 510.g8 511.h8 512.g7 513.f7 514.e7 515.d7 516.c7 517.b7 518.a7 519.a8 520.b8 521.c8 522.d8 523.e8 524.f8 525.g8 526.h8 527.g7 528.f7 529.e7 530.d7 531.c7 532.b7 533.a7 534.a8 535.b8 536.c8 537.d8 538.e8 539.f8 540.g8 541.h8 542.g7 543.f7 544.e7 545.d7 546.c7 547.b7 548.a7 549.a8 550.b8 551.c8 552.d8 553.e8 554.f8 555.g8 556.h8 557.g7 558.f7 559.e7 560.d7 561.c7 562.b7 563.a7 564.a8 565.b8 566.c8 567.d8 568.e8 569.f8 570.g8 571.h8 572.g7 573.f7 574.e7 575.d7 576.c7 577.b7 578.a7 579.a8 580.b8 581.c8 582.d8 583.e8 584.f8 585.g8 586.h8 587.g7 588.f7 589.e7 590.d7 591.c7 592.b7 593.a7 594.a8 595.b8 596.c8 597.d8 598.e8 599.f8 600.g8 601.h8 602.g7 603.f7 604.e7 605.d7 606.c7 607.b7 608.a7 609.a8 610.b8 611.c8 612.d8 613.e8 614.f8 615.g8 616.h8 617.g7 618.f7 619.e7 620.d7 621.c7 622.b7 623.a7 624.a8 625.b8 626.c8 627.d8 628.e8 629.f8 630.g8 631.h8 632.g7 633.f7 634.e7 635.d7 636.c7 637.b7 638.a7 639.a8 640.b8 641.c8 642.d8 643.e8 644.f8 645.g8 646.h8 647.g7 648.f7 649.e7 650.d7 651.c7 652.b7 653.a7 654.a8 655.b8 656.c8 657.d8 658.e8 659.f8 660.g8 661.h8 662.g7 663.f7 664.e7 665.d7 666.c7 667.b7 668.a7 669.a8 670.b8 671.c8 672.d8 673.e8 674.f8 675.g8 676.h8 677.g7 678.f7 679.e7 680.d7 681.c7 682.b7 683.a7 684.a8 685.b8 686.c8 687.d8 688.e8 689.f8 690.g8 691.h8 692.g7 693.f7 694.e7 695.d7 696.c7 697.b7 698.a7 699.a8 700.b8 701.c8 702.d8 703.e8 704.f8 705.g8 706.h8 707.g7 708.f7 709.e7 710.d7 711.c7 712.b7 713.a7 714.a8 715.b8 716.c8 717.d8 718.e8 719.f8 720.g8 721.h8 722.g7 723.f7 724.e7 725.d7 726.c7 727.b7 728.a7 729.a8 730.b8 731.c8 732.d8 733.e8 734.f8 735.g8 736.h8 737.g7 738.f7 739.e7 740.d7 741.c7 742.b7 743.a7 744.a8 745.b8 746.c8 747.d8 748.e8 749.f8 750.g8 751.h8 752.g7 753.f7 754.e7 755.d7 756.c7 757.b7 758.a7 759.a8 760.b8 761.c8 762.d8 763.e8 764.f8 765.g8 766.h8 767.g7 768.f7 769.e7 770.d7 771.c7 772.b7 773.a7 774.a8 775.b8 776.c8 777.d8 778.e8 779.f8 780.g8 781.h8 782.g7 783.f7 784.e7 785.d7 786.c7 787.b7 788.a7 789.a8 790.b8 791.c8 792.d8 793.e8 794.f8 795.g8 796.h8 797.g7 798.f7 799.e7 800.d7 801.c7 802.b7 803.a7 804.a8 805.b8 806.c8 807.d8 808.e8 809.f8 810.g8 811.h8 812.g7 813.f7 814.e7 815.d7 816.c7 817.b7 818.a7 819.a8 820.b8 821.c8 822.d8 823.e8 824.f8 825.g8 826.h8 827.g7 828.f7 829.e7 830.d7 831.c7 832.b7 833.a7 834.a8 835.b8 836.c8 837.d8 838.e8 839.f8 840.g8 841.h8 842.g7 843.f7 844.e7 845.d7 846.c7 847.b7 848.a7 849.a8 850.b8 851.c8 852.d8 853.e8 854.f8 855.g8 856.h8 857.g7 858.f7 859.e7 860.d7 861.c7 862.b7 863.a7 864.a8 865.b8 866.c8 867.d8 868.e8 869.f8 870.g8 871.h8 872.g7 873.f7 874.e7 875.d7 876.c7 877.b7 878.a7 879.a8 880.b8 881.c8 882.d8 883.e8 884.f8 885.g8 886.h8 887.g7 888.f7 889.e7 890.d7 891.c7 892.b7 893.a7 894.a8 895.b8 896.c8 897.d8 898.e8 899.f8 900.g8 901.h8 902.g7 903.f7 904.e7 905.d7 906.c7 907.b7 908.a7 909.a8 910.b8 911.c8 912.d8 913.e8 914.f8 915.g8 916.h8 917.g7 918.f7 919.e7 920.d7 921.c7 922.b7 923.a7 924.a8 925.b8 926.c8 927.d8 928.e8 929.f8 930.g8 931.h8 932.g7 933.f7 934.e7 935.d7 936.c7 937.b7 938.a7 939.a8 940.b8 941.c8 942.d8 943.e8 944.f8 945.g8 946.h8 947.g7 948.f7 949.e7 950.d7 951.c7 952.b7 953.a7 954.a8 955.b8 956.c8 957.d8 958.e8 959.f8 960.g8 961.h8 962.g7 963.f7 964.e7 965.d7 966.c7 967.b7 968.a7 969.a8 970.b8 971.c8 972.d8 973.e8 974.f8 975.g8 976.h8 977.g7 978.f7 979.e7 980.d7 981.c7 982.b7 983.a7 984.a8 985.b8 986.c8 987.d8 988.e8 989.f8 990.g8 991.h8 992.g7 993.f7 994.e7 995.d7 996.c7 997.b7 998.a7 999.a8 1000.b8 1001.c8 1002.d8 1003.e8 1004.f8 1005.g8 1006.h8 1007.g7 1008.f7 1009.e7 1010.d7 1011.c7 1012.b7 1013.a7 1014.a8 1015.b8 1016.c8 1017.d8 1018.e8 1019.f8 1020.g8 1021.h8 1022.g7 1023.f7 1024.e7 1025.d7 1026.c7 1027.b7 1028.a7 1029.a8 1030.b8 1031.c8 1032.d8 1033.e8 1034.f8 1035.g8 1036.h8 1037.g7 1038.f7 1039.e7 1040.d7 1041.c7 1042.b7 1043.a7 1044.a8 1045.b8 1046.c8 1047.d8 1048.e8 1049.f8 1050.g8 1051.h8 1052.g7 1053.f7 1054.e7 1055.d7 1056.c7 1057.b7 1058.a7 1059.a8 1060.b8 1061.c8 1062.d8 1063.e8 1064.f8 1065.g8 1066.h8 1067.g7 1068.f7 1069.e7 1070.d7 1071.c7 1072.b7 1073.a7 1074.a8 1075.b8 1076.c8 1077.d8 1078.e8 1079.f8 1080.g8 1081.h8 1082.g7 1083.f7 1084.e7 1085.d7 1086.c7 1087.b7 1088.a7 1089.a8 1090.b8 1091.c8 1092.d8 1093.e8 1094.f8 1095.g8 1096.h8 1097.g7 1098.f7 1099.e7 1100.d7 1101.c7 1102.b7 1103.a7 1104.a8 1105.b8 1106.c8 1107.d8 1108.e8 1109.f8 1110.g8 1111.h8 1112.g7 1113.f7 1114.e7 1115.d7 1116.c7 1117.b7 1118.a7 1119.a8 1120.b8 1121.c8 1122.d8 1123.e8 1124.f8 1125.g8 1126.h8 1127.g7 1128.f7 1129.e7 1130.d7 1131.c7 1132.b7 1133.a7 1134.a8 1135.b8 1136.c8 1137.d8 1138.e8 1139.f8 1140.g8 1141.h8 1142.g7 1143.f7 1144.e7 1145.d7 1146.c7 1147.b7 1148.a7 1149.a8 1150.b8 1151.c8 1152.d8 1153.e8 1154.f8 1155.g8 1156.h8 1157.g7 1158.f7 1159.e7 1160.d7 1161.c7 1162.b7 1163.a7 1164.a8 1165.b8 1166.c8 1167.d8 1168.e8 1169.f8 1170.g8 1171.h8 1172.g7 1173.f7 1174.e7 1175.d7 1176.c7 1177.b7 1178.a7 1179.a8 1180.b8 1181.c8 1182.d8 1183.e8 1184.f8 1185.g8 1186.h8 1187.g7 1188.f7 1189.e7 1190.d7 1191.c7 1192.b7 1193.a7 1194.a8 1195.b8 1196.c8 1197.d8 1198.e8 1199.f8 1200.g8 1201.h8 1202.g7 1203.f7 1204.e7 1205.d7 1206.c7 1207.b7 1208.a7 1209.a8 1210.b8 1211.c8 1212.d8 1213.e8 1214.f8 1215.g8 1216.h8 1217.g7 1218.f7 1219.e7 1220.d7 1221.c7 1222.b7 1223.a7 1224.a8 1225.b8 1226.c8 1227.d8 1228.e8 1229.f8 1230.g8 1231.h8 1232.g7 1233.f7 1234.e7 1235.d7 1236.c7 1237.b7 1238.a7 1239.a8 1240.b8 1241.c8 1242.d8 1243.e8 1244.f8 1245.g8 1246.h8 1247.g7 1248.f7 1249.e7 1250.d7 1251.c7 1252.b7 1253.a7 1254.a8 1255.b8 1256.c8 1257.d8 1258.e8 1259.f8 1260.g8 1261.h8 1262.g7 1263.f7 1264.e7 1265.d7 1266.c7 1267.b7 1268.a7 1269.a8 1270.b8 1271.c8 1272.d8 1273.e8 1274.f8 1275.g8 1276.h8 1277.g7 1278.f7 1279.e7 1280.d7 1281.c7 1282.b7 1283.a7 1284.a8 1285.b8 1286.c8 1287.d8 1288.e8 1289.f8 1290.g8 1291.h8 1292.g7 1293.f7 1294.e7 1295.d7 1296.c7 1297.b7 1298.a7 1299.a8 1300.b8 1301.c8 1302.d8 1303.e8 1304.f8 1305.g8 1306.h8 1307.g7 1308.f7 1309.e7 1310.d7 1311.c7 1312.b7 1313.a7 1314.a8 1315.b8 1316.c8 1317.d8 1318.e8 1319.f8 1320.g8 1321.h8 1322.g7 1323.f7 1324.e7 1325.d7 1326.c7 1327.b7 1328.a7 1329.a8 1330.b8 1331.c8 1332.d8 1333.e8 1334.f8 1335.g8 1336.h8 1337.g7 1338.f7 1339.e7 1340.d7 1341.c7 1342.b7 134

